Omicron dilemma

Many governments are reluctant to impose strict measures. **News, Page 4**

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Missionaries made daring nighttime escape to elude kidnappers. **News, Page 4**

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UConn men fall out of AP Top 25 poll; women drop to No. 11. **Sports, Page 1**

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Thickening cloudiness and milder; high 44. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant

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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

COVID-19 tests harder to come by

As demand spikes, few appointments are open and home tests are sold out; Lamont pledges expansion

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

As end-of-year holidays approach, many Connecticut residents are confronting a dearth of available COVID-19 testing, as few PCR testing sites have open appointments and most pharmacies are sold out of rapid at-home tests.

State data shows that while demand for testing has picked up significantly since the summer, fewer Connecticut residents are getting tested now, on average, than at the beginning of the year, during the state's last major surge.

"We hear it's a disaster out there in terms of people trying to find access," said Mark Masselli, president and CEO of Community Health Center, Inc., which operated test centers around the state earlier in the pandemic. "The demand is really increasing across the board."

In response to growing scarcity of testing, Connecticut is expanding the hours of its 23 state testing sites, as well as adding seven additional sites, state officials said Monday. One new site, which uses saliva testing, opened Monday on the New Haven Green; the other six sites will likely be launched over the next week, according to Department of Public Health commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani.

"I've heard the concerns: 'Hey, I want more testing, I want it to be easier, I want it to be faster,' " Gov. Ned Lamont said during a press briefing Monday, noting that demand for testing in Connecticut has increased by about a third over the last few weeks.

The state is also suspending enforcement of its weekly testing requirement for unvaccinated state employees through Jan. 3. The suspension applies to all state employees except for hospital workers, who are required to be vaccinated unless they have obtained a religious or medical exemption. The state will continue to offer COVID-19 testing in prisons and other high-risk congregate settings, officials said.

About half of the demand at the 23 state-run sites comes from state employees fulfilling their testing requirements, Juthani noted,

Turn to Tests, *Page 2*

Identical twins Sarvariha, left, and Saagariha Sunoj, right, check in with their father, Sunoj Mohan, left, at UConn Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Program at the Global Communications Academy in Hartford on Monday. **JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Hospitalizations jump by 14% over weekend

More out-of-state health care workers will be allowed to come to Connecticut

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's COVID-19 hospitalizations jumped by 14% in just three days this weekend, reaching the highest level in nearly 11 months.

The state continues to see large numbers of coronavirus cases as part of an ongoing winter surge complicated by the arrival of the highly contagious omicron variant.

At a press briefing Monday, Gov. Ned Lamont acknowledged the alarming trends but said he hopes the state can contain the outbreak without overwhelming its hospital system.

"Unlike a year ago or two years ago we're in much better position to defend ourselves and we know what works," Lamont said. "We know that masking works, we know that vaccinations work, we know that boosters work."

Lamont reiterated Monday that he has no plans for a statewide mask mandate or other significant restrictions but did announce several smaller measures meant to aid the state's pandemic response:

- The state will pause enforcement of its testing requirement for unvaccinated public employees to free up testing capacity for the broader public.
- The Department of Public Health will temporarily waive the state's licensure requirements for certain professions to allow health care workers from other states to

Turn to COVID-19, *Page 2*

Kor'dae Delpeche, 6, of East Hartford, points to which arm she would like her shot as sister K'hloee Delpeche, 5, left, watches at UConn Health's vaccine event. Free vaccines were offered to school-aged children.

Dems aim to build back

Schumer vows vote after Manchin deals setback to $2T bill

By Lisa Mascaro and Farnoush Amiri
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats are struggling to pick up the pieces after Sen. Joe Manchin effectively crushed President Joe Biden's big domestic policy bill. But they face serious questions whether the $2 trillion initiative can be refashioned to win his crucial vote or the party will be saddled with a devastating defeat.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer vowed Monday that the chamber would vote early in the new year on Biden's "Build Back Better Act" as it now stands, so every senator "has the opportunity to make their position known on the Senate floor, not just on television." That was a biting reference to Manchin's TV announcement against the bill Sunday.

But the conservative West Virginia Democrat and his party are so far apart, his relationships so bruised after months of failed talks, it's unclear how they even get back to the negotiating table, let alone revive the more than 2,100-page social services and climate change bill.

"We're going to work like hell to get it done," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki, repeating the phrase several times at a briefing but never saying how.

Schumer on Monday also gave the clearest sign yet that he would try to force a fundamental change in Senate rules if needed to enact federal laws to offset voting restrictions being imposed by Republican-led legislatures around the country.

Turn to Democrats, *Page 3*

Some churches shift to online Christmas services

With COVID-19 cases spiking, several houses of worship are shifting their holiday worship schedules online. On Monday, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York announced it was canceling in-person services. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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Inmate with cancer dies from virus after transfers

On Oct. 1, William Lamprecht was transferred from the New Haven jail to the Robinson Correctional Institution in Enfield, shown above. He died two months later in the COVID unit at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution. **COURANT FILE**

By Dave Altimari and Kelan Lyons
CT Mirror

William Lamprecht stood before the judge in a Torrington courtroom in September fearing the four months he was about to spend in prison would become a death sentence.

The 62-year-old man, who had been battling alcohol and drug addiction for years, was awaiting his fate after pleading guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol in New Milford last year.

But cocaine and vodka weren't the only things destroying his body — Lamprecht also was fighting follicular lymphoma, for which he took Truxima — a drug his doctor warned the court could cause immunosuppression.

"The only concern is this — I'm a little scared about the COVID thing," Lamprecht told Superior Court Judge Christopher Pelosi at his sentencing on Sept. 15, according to court transcripts from the case.

The judge replied, "I agree," to which Lamprecht added, "I'm immunocompromised, you know. I'm 62 years old. It's just a little scary."

Turn to Inmate, *Page 3*

FROM PAGE ONE

COVID-19

from Page 1

come to Connecticut.

■ Connecticut residents now have the option to store their vaccination data on digital vaccine cards, designed to let businesses more easily manage who is allowed to enter. Instructions for loading the cards are available at ct.gov/getmyvaccinerecord.

Experts say Connecticut is likely to see a further surge in COVID-19 cases over the coming weeks as the omicron variant begins to spread widely in the state.

"There's an expectation that community transmission is going to be high in the next couple of weeks and may even be higher than we've seen in the past," said Dr. David Banach, an epidemiologist at UConn Health. "But that's coupled with some reassurance that the vaccines, particularly when someone has had a booster, provide protection against severe illness."

As a result, experts advise caution when it comes to holiday gatherings.

"We have to think about what risks we're willing and not willing to take," said Dr. Marwan Haddad, who chairs Community Health Center's COVID-19 advisory group. "The transmissibility of omicron right now is really, really high."

Cases and test positivity rate

Connecticut reported 6,209 new COVID-19 cases Monday out of 90,689 tests, for a daily positivity rate of 6.85%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 7.16%, highest at any point since Jan. 12.

Connecticut has now averaged 2,006 daily COVID-19 cases over the past week, the most in a seven-day period since mid-January. Unvaccinated residents have been about five times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

All eight Connecticut counties — as well as the rest of those in the Northeast region — are currently recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Identical twins Saagariha, left, and Sarvariha Sunoj get their shots at UConn Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Program at the Global Communications Academy in Hartford on Monday.
JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Hospitalizations

As of Monday, Connecticut has 837 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, up 101 from Thursday and most at a time since Feb. 4. Coronavirus hospitalizations in Connecticut have now more than quadrupled since the end of October.

According to the state, 75.6% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is even higher when looking specifically at people with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths on Thursdays. Last week, the state recorded 56 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 9,002.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged in Connecticut over recent weeks, deaths have risen slightly but still remain far below the levels recorded last winter.

The United States has now recorded 807,023 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Monday, 87.1% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 74.1% of all residents and 83.3% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 37.2% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

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Tests

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adding that eliminating that pressure will be a boon to statewide testing capacity.

"What we expect that will do is free up a little bit of additional capacity for other residents in the state who are actually symptomatic or who were exposed, so that they can have a little bit of quicker access to testing," said Josh Geballe, Lamont's chief operating officer. "It's tens of thousands of tests a week, so it's a meaningful number, and with the holiday period coming up right now, we think it's a smart move."

In an ill-timed hit to the state's testing capacity, SEMA4, the Stamford-based laboratory that has run 15 out of the 23 state COVID-19 testing sites, pulled out of its contract with Connecticut last week amid a controversy over investments made by the venture capital firm founded by Lamont's wife. The company has agreed to extend its testing operation through the end of January, Juthani said.

Still, some COVID-19 testing sites that were open during the first year and a half of the pandemic have since closed, including a number of public testing sites run by Community Health Center.

"We were doing it in 26 sites across the state — you could go from Groton to Stamford, from Clinton all the way up to Enfield. We were a seven-day-a-week operation," Masselli said. .

From November 2020 through February 2021, those sites were testing, a total of 4,000 to 5,000 Connecticut residents per day. Testing demand began to decline in the spring and summer, and the health center's contract with the state ended this past summer, Masselli said. Currently, CHC only offers testing to its medical patients.

CHC had a stockpile of about 7,000 at-home rapid tests, which it has distributed to its patients. By now, though, that stockpile has been depleted and another shipment won't arrive until early January, Masselli said.

"It doesn't really meet the need," he added.

Across the state, many testing sites had very limited availability — if any — in the days leading up to Christmas. As of midday Monday, a New Haven County resident would have to wait until Sunday to schedule a PCR test at a Yale New Haven Health site; Walgreens PCR testing in the region was full through the next Monday. A Walgreens spokesperson said in a statement that the pharmacy chain has seen increased demand for testing as the omicron variant spreads and that those seeking tests "may need to book testing appointments 1-2 days in advance or expand their search area."

In the Hartford region, Hartford HealthCare's only drive-up testing location, in Newington, was booked out through next Wednesday, Dec. 29. CVS appointments for PCR testing were first available early next week; rapid tests were not available until later that week.

Rapid at-home tests, which were already becoming hard to find last week, are even more difficult to secure. At CVS, QuickVue and BinaxNOW rapid at-home COVID-19 tests were out of stock online; at Walgreens, BinaxNOW tests were sold out nearly everywhere in the state.

To meet demand, Hartford HealthCare is working to expand access to COVID-19 testing and has extended the hours of its Newington site, said Dr. Jim Cardon, Hartford HealthCare's chief clinical officer.

"We were running Newington a couple days a week and not having slots filled, so it has obviously picked up," he said.

The health care system is also aiming to open four additional drive-through testing sites around the state by early next year.

"What we need capacity for is a lot of symptomatic testing," Cardon said. He added that if additional drive-through sites can handle testing for symptomatic individuals, it will help relieve demand at smaller-scale testing sites like pharmacies.

Walk-up testing sites may currently prove more accessible for some residents, including at locations across the state through SEMA4 and at some community health centers.

At Charter Oak Health Center in Hartford, which takes walk-ins for COVID-19 testing, demand has increased in the past few weeks, more than doubling since early November, said president and CEO Nichelle Mullins. But it's still far from what is was last year.

"A lot of people are showing up, but [Charter Oak] had lines down the block last year, so it's nothing like that," Mullins said. "Somewhere around 60 to 70 tests per week, that was a low in November; now we're up to probably 200 tests per week. But we used to do that sometimes in a day."

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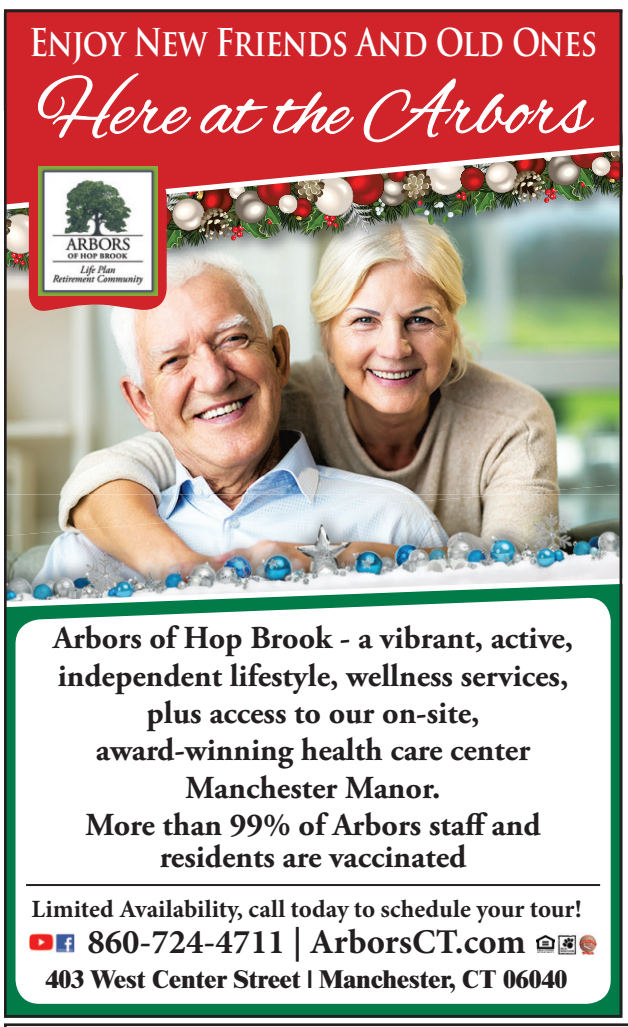
LOTTERY
Monday, Dec. 20

PLAY3 DAY
2 7 6 **WB:** 2

PLAY4 DAY
2 2 0 7 **WB:** 3

SUNDAY'S LATE NUMBERS
PLAY3 NIGHT
8 7 7 **WB:** 4
PLAY4 NIGHT
2 4 7 9 **WB:** 4
CASH 5
2 14 23 24 31
LUCKY FOR LIFE
9 16 42 44 48 **LB:** 14
Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: $2.6 million
Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: $171 million
Wednesday's est. Powerball jackpot: $363 million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TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

FROM PAGE ONE

Democrats

from Page 1

In a letter to colleagues, Schumer said the Senate would take up stalled voting rights legislation as early as the first week of January and that if Republicans continued to filibuster, the Senate would "consider changes to any rules which prevent us from debating and reaching final conclusion on important legislation."

But it is not clear how far Democrats will be willing or able to go in working around the 60-vote requirement for most legislation and finding a way to pass voting rights legislation with a simple majority. While several formerly reluctant senators have in recent weeks endorsed rules change for voting issues, at least two Democratic senators — Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona — have resisted.

From the White House on Monday, Psaki struck a more conciliatory tone than her weekend hard-ball reaction to Manchin, saying Biden is a "longtime friend" of the senator and the president is focused on moving forward.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki speaks at the White House on Monday in Washington, D.C. Psaki fielded several questions about Sen. Joe Manchin's announcement over the weekend that he will not support the Biden administration's social spending bill. **DREW ANGERER/GETTY**

In a radio interview Monday, Manchin reiterated his position that the social and environment bill has far too much government spending — on child care, health care and other programs — without enough restrictions on incomes or work requirements.

While he refrained from directly criticizing Biden, he had harsh words for members of the president's staff, who he charged "put some things out that were absolutely inexcusable." Pressed further, he refused to specify what infuriated him, beyond that it had pushed him to "the wit's end," and he believed it had been driven by White House staff members.

He ticked off a list of unaddressed concerns with the measure, including the lack of guardrails on new spending and its possible effect on inflation. And he said that he had only agreed to take up the bill in hopes of rolling back parts of the 2017 Republican tax cuts, an effort that faltered amid opposition from Sinema, another key centrist.

"I knew where they were, and I knew what they could and could not do — they just never realized it because they figured, surely to God we can move one person," Manchin said. "Surely we can badger and beat one person up, surely we can get enough protesters to make that person uncomfortable enough they'll just say 'OK, I'll vote for anything, just quit.' "

Manchin added: "Well, guess what, I'm from West Virginia. I'm not from where they're from, and they can just beat the living crap out of people and think they'll be submissive. Period."

But the lifelong Democrat was less clear when asked if the party still has room for him — describing himself as "fiscally responsible and socially compassionate."

Manchin said: "Now, if there's no Democrats like that then they have to push me wherever they want."

The next steps remain uncertain for the president and his party as lawmakers assessed their options with Congress on recess for the holiday break.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., a leader of the progressive caucus, spoke with Manchin early Monday, but emerged warning her colleagues the senator was an untrustworthy partner who "went back on his word."

Jayapal said Democrats were working with the White House on alternative means of reaching the bill's goals through executive or administrative actions, without legislation.

"We cannot make the same mistakes twice," she said on a conference call with other progressives. "We cannot hang the futures of millions of Americans on the words of one man."

The White House appeared to take interest in Manchin's preference for a reimagined bill that would tackle a few top priorities, for longer duration, rather than the multifaceted House-passed version.

The New York Times contributed.

Inmate

from Page 1

While Pelosi understood Lamprecht's concerns about being sent to a congregate setting during a deadly pandemic, the judge explained that his hands were tied. State law mandates that second-time DUI offenders like Lamprecht must be sentenced to at least four months in prison.

But before sending Lamprecht to the Department of Correction's custody, the judge made sure the court orders showed that Lamprecht suffered from cancer and had a "susceptibility" to COVID.

Lamprecht was sent to the New Haven Correctional Center that day — the jail with the second-most COVID cases among DOC facilities since the onset of the pandemic.

Lamprecht's fears were realized barely two months later. He died alone, isolated in a hospital bed, of COVID-19 that he contracted in one of the three prisons and jails he served time in — one of which is an open dorm setting, where practicing social distancing is virtually impossible — before being transferred to the COVID unit at MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution. Less than a month after his transfer to MacDougall, the fourth correctional facility he'd been in since being admitted to DOC custody a month and a half earlier, Lamprecht was dead.

To advocates, Lamprecht's death is indicative of myriad systemic failures of the criminal legal system. But for Kenyatta Muzzanni, the director of organizing for the Katal Center for Equity, Health and Justice, which has been advocating throughout the pandemic for the state to release more people from prison and jail to reduce the spread of the virus, the failure starts at the system's front end, before Lamprecht was even incarcerated.

"What happened should not have happened to that man," Muzzanni said. "It shows that we take more consideration into putting people in cages and calling that rehabilitation rather than actually helping people. A person lost their life for a DUI. That's unacceptable."

Numerous transfers

On Oct. 1, Lamprecht was transferred from the New Haven jail to Robinson Correctional Institution in Enfield. Six days later, he was sent to the Osborn Correctional Institution in Somers.

According to DOC data, there have been 810 cases of COVID-19 at New Haven Correctional Center, the second-highest of any prison or jail in the system. Osborn has the fourth-highest number of COVID cases and, as of last January, had the highest number of deaths due to the virus.

The last place Lamprecht was transferred to, on Oct. 18, was the COVID-19 medical isolation unit at MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution in Suffield. When he became too ill to be cared for there, Lamprecht was transferred to St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, where he died on Nov. 23.

DOC spokeswoman Karen Martucci said she couldn't comment "directly about anyone's protected health information" or answer questions about what agency knew about Lamprecht's underlying health condition.

It's unclear how or where Lamprecht contracted the virus. Everyone admitted to a correctional facility is tested for the virus when they're admitted, put in quarantine for 14 days, then tested again before they're released to the general population. Martucci said any prisoners who test positive after the two-week quarantine at intake are either sent to MacDougall-Walker or isolated at the prison or jail where they were quarantined. The DOC did neither with Lamprecht and instead transferred him to Robinson and then Osborn.

"An individual's medical need is reviewed as part of the transfer process to ensure appropriate placement," Martucci said. "Osborn is an example of a facility with an in-patient infirmary and the ability to provide a high level of medical care."

DOC records indicate Lamprecht was admitted to New Haven Correctional Center on Sept. 15. Just over two weeks later, he was transferred to Robinson Correctional Institution.

Robinson has dormitory-style housing units. Chad Petitpas, a man who is incarcerated there, describes the living spaces as large square warehouses with about 60 bunk beds in 10 rows. Petitpas said he has a bed about 3.5 feet away on each side of him, so there is no way he can socially distance, between the two people in the beds to his left and right and the man who sleeps above him. Plus, he said, prison officials don't enforce mask-wearing in the dormitory-style living space.

"My personal space, even my bunk, I'm sharing with five other people," he said in a phone call from the prison. "You don't have your own personal area."

Lamprecht was taken from his sentencing hearing to the New Haven Correctional Center before being transferred to Robinson Correctional Institution.

Martucci said prisoners are tested before they're transferred to other correctional facilities, a safeguard to mitigate the spread between prisons and jails. Muzzanni said Katal is in touch with people who are currently or were recently incarcerated, and despite the DOC's safeguards, she's dubious that those transfers protect the incarcerated from catching or spreading the virus.

"There is no physical distancing in a prison or a jail," Muzzanni said. "And so we can't expect that to happen in this van transfer, and it doesn't happen when they get to the facility."

Lamprecht was the 22nd prisoner to die from COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic. DOC officials announced a 23rd incarcerated person died on Dec. 13, a 51-year old serving a 10-year sentence.

'There's no sense to it'

Lamprecht, a native of Wingdale, N.Y., in Dutchess County, ended up in Connecticut's prison system after a night of drinking in Danbury on Feb. 21, 2020, when another motorist saw him driving his car erratically on Route 7 in New Milford and called police.

When the officer approached his vehicle after pulling him over, Lamprecht rolled down his window and thanked the officer for stopping him, according to the police report.

"I've been drinking," Lamprecht admitted, informing the officer he'd consumed a bottle of vodka and used cocaine that night. He agreed to take a field sobriety test.

Lamprecht started to perform the walk and turn test, but quickly lost his balance, stopped, and told the officer, "There's no sense to it. I'm all f...d up."

At the police station, Lamprecht took a breathalyzer test that read 0.1005%, well over the state's legal limit of 0.08%. He was charged with DUI and released after turning in his license and paying a $1,000 bond.

At Lamprecht's initial court appearance, state prosecutor Jonathan Knight filed a document indicating Lamprecht was a two-time DUI offender. He had been convicted of DUI in November 2014 in Newburg, N.Y., according to court records.

The previous conviction in Newburg meant that Lamprecht was facing a mandatory jail sentence under a state statute that calls for anyone convicted twice for a DUI within 10 years to be "imprisoned not more than two years, 120 consecutive days of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner."

Lamprecht would face that mandatory-minimum sentence unless the state's attorney reduced or dismissed the charge.

Litchfield State's Attorney Dawn Gallo said this week she has "reviewed this case, and can say that the prosecutor who handled the file exercised a considerable amount of discretion by requesting only the minimum mandatory amount of incarceration mandated by statute, in light of the defendant's prior record and history of substance use."

"Persons who drive under the influence of alcohol and cocaine pose a substantial risk of serious injury and death to every citizen on the roads of our state," Gallo said. "That said, the Litchfield State's Attorney's Office extends its deepest condolences to the Lamprecht family."

Muzzanni said Lamprecht shouldn't have been sent to prison for a DUI, considering his medical needs, the prison system's strained health care services, the rising infection rate in the state's prisons and jails and the low vaccination rate among DOC staff. Instead, Muzzanni said, Lamprecht should have been offered treatment in the community.

"That is where there's a major system failure, where we just lock people away instead of actually getting them the help that they need," she said.

Judge Pelosi referred to state law when he handed down the sentence.

"So you know, Mr. Lamprecht, it's 120 days mandatory that the Court can't suspend," Pelosi said.

The judge then added that on the mittimus — a document the court gives to DOC outlining the sentence — court officials would highlight Lamprecht's need for medical attention because he was being treated for cancer and was susceptible to COVID.

In a phone interview, Robert Lamprecht acknowledged that his brother had been in and out of trouble his whole life, but he never caused anyone any physical harm.

"If he had hurt anybody, any violence or anything, he would have had to suffer the consequences," Robert Lamprecht said. "But I think with this, it's just a shame ... it wasn't a real serious offense."

Lamprecht said he doesn't blame the sentencing judge for his brother's death.

"They gotta follow the law, and I respect that," he said. "So, it's a matter of policy. Maybe they just haven't come up with a policy to cover the special circumstances with the COVID."

Difficulty maintaining recovery

Lamprecht tried to beat his demons after his 2020 arrest.

Court records show that he enrolled in a program at the Lexington Center for Recovery in Dover Plains, N.Y., for at least six months after his arrest. He had passed weekly drug and alcohol tests since at least January 2021, except for one time in February where he tested positive for both cocaine and alcohol.

His social worker, Judith Mueller, wrote in her last report that Lamprecht had "thoughts of indulging in his addiction often."

But Mueller said he "is learning to move high risk thoughts to neutral thoughts of a different subject." She also wrote that Lamprecht was regularly attending 12-step meetings and had an Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor.

She concluded her analysis saying, "Client is having difficulty maintaining recovery and would benefit by attending an in-patient, specialized treatment program."

In May 2021, Lamprecht had completed a three-week, in-patient drug rehab program through the Phelps Hospital in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Meanwhile, during that time frame, Lamprecht had eight court appearances in Torrington while also battling health issues.

He missed a court date last summer, causing the judge to issue a rearrest warrant that would have revoked his bond. However, public defender Mark Johnson, who was representing Lamprecht, informed the judge the next day that his client had been ill and couldn't make it to court.

The judge rescinded the warrant, and Lamprecht pleaded guilty on June 29, knowing that he was now facing the mandatory prison term.

'Hope that his time goes swiftly'

At his sentencing, public defender William Schofield told the judge he had discussed the pre-sentence report with Lamprecht. Schofield said he also submitted medical records of Lamprecht's cancer treatments.

Schofield said that Lamprecht was trying hard to beat the addictions that he had been fighting his whole life.

"I do believe he is sincere in his attempts and is working on the program. I've spoken to his AA sponsor, who is also present in the courtroom, Judge. He does have resources and he is making use of them," Schofield said. "And I hope that his time goes swiftly and safely considering his medical condition."

Given an opportunity to address the court before his sentencing, Lamprecht told the judge he understood the actions he'd taken to put himself in this position and what he had to do.

"I want to get this past me," he said. "I want to take care of it."

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Omicron fears haunt halls of power

Variant sweeping across US as world leaders weigh threat

By Philip Marcelo and Jill Lawless
Associated Press

People wait to get tested for COVID-19 in New York City, which is considering changes to its end-of-year bash. **SETH WENIG/AP**

BOSTON — Many governments in the U.S. and Europe are confronting dilemmas over how hard to come down in the face of omicron, which scientists say spreads more easily than other coronavirus strains, including delta, which itself led to surges in many parts of the world. Early evidence suggests omicron may also produce less serious illness though experts caution it is too soon to say and that it could better evade vaccine protection.

Even if it is milder, the new variant could still overwhelm health systems because of the sheer number of infections.

But many political leaders are reluctant to impose the stiff measures they resorted to earlier in the pandemic — often because they promised their people that vaccines would offer a way out of such restrictions or because it may be politically untenable to impose them again.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday said officials have decided against imposing further restrictions, at least for now.

"We will have to reserve the possibility of taking further action to protect the public," Johnson said. "The arguments either way are very finely balanced."

The conservative government re-imposed face masks in shops and ordered people to show proof of vaccination at nightclubs and other crowded venues earlier this month. It is also weighing curfews and stricter social distancing requirements.

Johnson's warning threw into stark relief the unpalatable choice government leaders face: wreck holiday plans for millions for a second consecutive year, or face a potential tidal wave of cases and disruption.

In the U.S., President Joe Biden is set to address the nation Tuesday, less than a year after he said the country would essentially be back to normal by Christmas.

His top medical adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, made the rounds on television over the weekend, promising that the president will issue "a stark warning of what the winter will look like" for unvaccinated Americans.

Omicron has raced ahead of other variants and is now the dominant version of the coronavirus in the country, accounting for 73% of new infections last week, federal health officials said Monday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention numbers showed nearly a six-fold increase in omicron's share of infections in one week.

In much of the country, omicron's prevalence is even higher. It is responsible for an estimated 90% of new infections in the New York area, the Southeast, the industrial Midwest and the Pacific Northwest.

In New York City, where the mayor has said the new variant is already in "full force," a spike is scuttling Broadway shows and spurring long lines at testing centers.

The city is also weighing what to do with its New Year's Eve bash in Times Square.

Mayor Bill de Blasio has said a decision will be made this week about whether the event will come back "full strength" — with attendees providing proof of vaccination — as he promised in November. Last year's bash was limited to some essential workers.

Organizers of the New Year's Eve party planned for downtown Los Angeles' Grand Park say there will not be an in-person audience. The event will be livestreamed instead, as it was last year.

In Rhode Island, a mask mandate took effect Monday for indoor spaces that can hold 250 people or more, such as larger retail stores and churches.

And in Boston, the city's new Democratic mayor announced to protests and jeers that anyone entering a restaurant, bar or other indoor business will need to show proof of vaccination starting next month.

"There is nothing more American than coming together to ensure that we're taking care of each other," Mayor Michelle Wu said at City Hall as protesters blew whistles and shouted "Shame on Wu."

Much about the omicron variant remains unknown. Scientists say omicron spreads even easier than other strains. Early studies suggest the vaccinated will need a booster shot for the best chance at preventing an omicron infection but even without the extra dose, vaccination still should offer strong protection against severe illness and death.

Other countries are warily watching the U.K., which reported 91,743 more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases Monday, close to the record high for a single day set last week.

The Dutch government began a tough nationwide lockdown Sunday to rein in sharply rising infections.

But many European leaders have opted for something less.

France and Germany have barred most British travelers from entering, and the government in Paris has also banned public concerts and fireworks displays at New Year's celebrations. Ireland imposed an 8 p.m. curfew on pubs and bars and limited attendance at indoor and outdoor events, while Greece will have 10,000 police officers on duty over the holidays to carry out COVID pass checks.

In Spain, the national average of new cases is double what it was a year ago. But authorities in the country with one of Europe's highest vaccination rates are betting primarily on mandatory mask-wearing indoors and the rollout of booster shots, with no further restrictions planned.

Officials: Captives made a daring escape in Haiti

Missionaries had to sneak out, walk for miles in the dark

By Peter Smith
Associated Press

Weston Showalter, a Christian Aid Ministries spokesman, gives details about the freed hostages Monday in Berlin, Ohio. Some of the hostages are visible in a photo at right. **TOM E. PUSKAR/AP**

BERLIN, Ohio — Captive missionaries in Haiti found freedom last week by making a daring overnight escape, eluding their kidnappers and walking for miles over difficult, moonlit terrain with an infant and other children in tow, according to the agency they work for, officials said Monday.

The group of 12 navigated by the stars to reach safety after a two-month kidnapping ordeal, officials with the Christian Aid Ministries, the Ohio-based agency that the captive missionaries work for, said Monday at a news conference.

The detailed accounting of their journey to safety comes after news Thursday that the missionaries were free.

A total of 17 people from the missionary group — 12 adults and five minors — were abducted Oct. 16 shortly after visiting an orphanage in Ganthier, in the Croix-des-Bouquets area, where they verified it had received aid from CAM and played with the children, CAM has said.

The group included 16 Americans and one Canadian.

Their captors from the 400 Mawozo gang initially demanded millions of dollars in ransom. Five other captives had earlier reached freedom. It is still unclear if any ransom was paid.

CAM General Director David Troyer did say supporters of CAM raised funds for possible use for a ransom, but he refused to say whether one was paid for any of the releases.

The 12 who fled last week carried the infant and 3-year-old, wrapping the baby to protect her from the briars and brambles, said CAM spokesman Weston Showalter.

"After a number of hours of walking, day began to dawn, and they eventually found someone who helped to make a phone call for help," he said, his voice beginning to choke. "They were finally free."

The 12 were flown to Florida on a U.S. Coast Guard flight and later reunited with five hostages who were released earlier.

CAM displayed photos at the news conferences showing the freed hostages being reunited, along with a video of the group singing a song that had inspired them during their captivity.

The missionaries were taken hostage on their way back from the orphanage on the afternoon of Oct. 16.

"They had no idea what was ahead of them," Showalter said.

Only five or 10 minutes after getting underway, they saw a roadblock up ahead.

The group's driver — the one Canadian in the group — turned around, but a pickup truck pursued them, and "gang members surrounded the van," Showalter said.

He said early reports that the driver was a Haitian national were not accurate.

He said they were initially crowded into a small room in a house, but were moved around several times during their captivity.

They were not physically harmed by the kidnappers, Showalter said.

He said the main physical challenges included the heat, mosquitoes and contaminated water for bathing, which led some of them to develop sores. Sometimes the young children got sick.

However, he said everyone appears to have emerged from captivity in good health.

The adults received small food portions, such as rice and beans for dinner, although the captors provided plenty of food suitable for the small children, he said.

The hostages gathered multiple times during the day for prayer and religious devotions, and sometimes singing loud enough for each other to hear when they were in separate rooms, Showalter said.

They also sought to encourage other hostages being held for ransom in separate kidnappings, Showalter said.

Over time, the hostages agreed to try to escape, and chose the night of Dec. 15 to flee.

"When they sensed the timing was right, they found a way to open the door that was closed and blocked, filed silently to the path they had chosen to follow, and quickly left the place they were held, despite the fact that numerous guards were close by," Showalter said.

Based in Berlin, Ohio, CAM is supported and staffed by conservative Anabaptists, a range of Mennonite, Amish and related groups whose hallmarks include nonresistance to evil, plain dress and separation from mainstream society.

None of the freed hostages were at the news conference.

After the news conference, a group of CAM employees stood and sang, "Nearer My God to Thee" in the robust, four-part a cappella harmony that is a signature of conservative Anabaptist worship.

A dose of Moderna vaccine is prepared this month at a vaccination center near Ramsgate, England. **LEON NEAL/WPA**

Moderna: Booster can help fend off omicron

By Apoorva Mandavilli
The New York Times

A booster shot of the Moderna vaccine significantly raises the level of antibodies that can thwart the omicron variant, the company said Monday.

The news arrives as omicron advances across the world, and most coronavirus vaccines seem unable to stave off infection from the highly contagious variant.

Moderna's results show that the currently authorized booster dose of 50 micrograms — half the dose given for primary immunization — increased the level of antibodies by 37 times, the company said. A full dose of 100 micrograms was even more powerful, raising antibody levels 83-fold compared with pre-boost levels, Moderna said.

Both doses produced side effects comparable to those seen after the two-dose primary series. But the dose of 100 micrograms showed slightly more frequent adverse reactions relative to the authorized 50-microgram dose.

The results are based on laboratory tests that do not capture the full range of the body's immune response against the virus. Although vaccines may not prevent infection from the variant, they are expected to prevent severe illness in the vast majority of people.

The data have also not been published or reviewed by independent experts. Moderna said it was preparing a manuscript with the data that would be posted online.

Pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and BioNTech announced this month that a booster shot of their vaccine also increased the level of antibodies against omicron.

Moderna said it will focus its near-term efforts on extra shots of the original vaccine. It also plans to test a booster that is specific to omicron early next year and to include omicron in a multivalent booster.

WORLD & NATION

Conservatives take aim at educators

Parents broadening focus from masks to books, other issues

By Mead Gruver
Associated Press

Amanda Darrow, director of youth and family programs at the Utah Pride Center, poses with books that have been the subject of complaints. **RICK BOWMER/AP**

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A recent Wyoming school board meeting was again packed with opponents of mask mandates when things took an abrupt turn and a parent started reading aloud sexually explicit passages from a book available in school libraries.

"Parents like myself had no idea this stuff was here," the parent, Shannon Ashby, told trustees of Laramie County School District No. 1 in the capital city.

The push to remove objectionable books from school libraries is part of a renewed conservative interest in public education as a political issue since the start of the pandemic. Parents who first packed school board meetings to express their opposition to mask mandates and other COVID-19 measures have since broadened their focus to other issues they say clash with conservative values.

Such issues played a key role in last month's Virginia governor's election and are now poised to be in the Republican spotlight in the 2022 midterms.

"If you put pictures to the material that was read, our superintendent would be in jail for trafficking in kiddie porn," said Darin Smith, a local attorney and former Republican congressional candidate whose wife is on the school board. "I would never have known these extreme leftists that are controlling our school district had I not gone to voice my opposition to the masking."

The award-winning book Ashby wants pulled from Cheyenne high school and middle schools, "Monday's Not Coming," by Tiffany Jackson, is a novel about the mysterious disappearance of a Black teenager. Supporters say it contains important messages about topics such as poverty, child abuse and friendship, though it does includes scenes such as a boy and a girl having sex on a teacher's desk.

Similar disputes over public school curricula and books arose recently in Virginia, where with help from former Vice President Mike Pence they became a major issue in Republican Glenn Youngkin's successful campaign for governor.

They've also been a political issue in the Carolinas and Texas while school officials in Kansas pulled almost 30 books from shelves after a complaint before returning them.

In Utah, the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union opened an investigation in November after a suburban Salt Lake City district removed several books including "The Bluest Eye," by Toni Morrison, pending investigation into a parent complaint. Other books that have been the subject of complaints in the city's schools include titles with LGBTQ characters.

"There is a wave of well-funded, well-organized attacks in our schools and looking to remove library books from the shelves," Utah Education Association President Heidi Matthews said.

Library organizations are pushing back, pointing out that many of the books in question depict struggles of minorities. Efforts to remove them send a message to minority youths that their views don't matter, said Deborah Caldwell Stone, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

"For me, it's just astonishing that so many groups that use 'liberty' in their names, that claim that they're all for freedom and the individual right to exercise freedom, resort so quickly to use censorship," Stone said.

Ashby belongs to Moms for Liberty, a conservative group that says it challenges "short-sighted and destructive" policies in public schools.

Wyoming's top education official questioned whether the book disputes are a fundamentally conservative cause.

"Labeling this as a 'conservative' issue is a disservice to parents and their children. We should embrace parents wanting to engage with their children's education, not label them," Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow, a Republican, said in a statement recently.

In September, Balow joined Wyoming's Republican legislative leaders in supporting proposed state legislation to counter the teaching of "critical race theory," which has become a catch-all term for efforts to teach that systemic racism remains a persistent problem in the U.S.

Balow noted that disputes over books aren't new. Since the 1970s, for example, several books by children's and young adult author Judy Blume have been banned from schools and libraries for everything from sexuality to endings people didn't like. Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is another frequent target due to racist language.

Ashby said she first heard about the books in the Cheyenne district after tuning in to conservative podcasts. She then checked an online school library book database to see which books mentioned in the podcasts were in Cheyenne.

Cheyenne school officials haven't begun reviewing the books Ashby opposes because nobody has filed a complaint, Superintendent Margaret Crespo said.

Crespo said book opponents at school board meetings represent a small fraction of the community and not those who've written or spoken to school officials in support, though the district has begun adjusting its book policies, including how they are purchased and checked out.

On the night Ashby read to the board, one person spoke in favor of the mask mandate or keeping the books.

"Parents should read what their kids are reading, and if they don't approve it, don't let them read it. That doesn't mean that they have the right to make that decision for every other family," Dr. Renee Hinkle, a local obstetrician, said over heckling.

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Fragile partnership in Iraq fights IS

Government and Kurds try to keep militants at bay

By Samya Kullab
Associated Press

Kurdish peshmerga forces oversee digging of defensive trenches this month in the village of Lheiban , Iraq. **SAMYA KULLAB/AP**

LHEIBAN, Iraq — As a backhoe dug up the ground to build trenches, Iraqi soldiers scanned the vast farming tracts for militants; not far away, their Kurdish counterparts did the same.

The scene earlier this month in the small northern Iraqi farming village of Lheiban was a rare instance of coordination between the federal government and the semi-autonomous Kurdish region. The two sides were fortifying a joint position aimed at defending the village against attacks by the Islamic State group.

Despite a long-standing territorial dispute, Baghdad and Iraq's Kurds are taking steps to work together to prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State group.

Whether the fragile security partnership can hold is the big test in the next chapter of Iraq's war with IS. Both sides say they need the Americans to help keep it together — and they say that is one reason why the U.S. military presence in Iraq is not going away even as its combat mission officially ends on Dec. 31.

Iraq declared IS defeated four years ago this month. But the rivalry between Baghdad and the Kurds opened up cracks through which IS crept back: a long, disputed zone snaking through four provinces — Nineveh, Kirkuk, Salaheddin and Diyala — where the forces of either side did not enter. In some places, the zone was up to 24 miles wide.

Lheiban lies in one part of the zone, and a recent flurry of IS attacks threatened to empty the area of its residents, mostly Kurds. So for the first time since 2014, Iraqi troops and peshmerga are setting up joint coordination centers around the zone to better police the gaps.

"Daesh took advantage," said Capt. Nakib Hajar, head of Kurdish peshmerga operations in the area, using the Arabic acronym for IS. Now, he said, "we are coordinating ... It begins here, in this village."

Like all residents of Lheiban, Helmet Zahir is tired. In past months, the cement factory worker would spend all night on the roof of his humble home, his wife and children sleeping inside, holding his rifle and waiting.

Security personnel guarding a nearby oil company — the only ones in the area equipped with thermal night vision — would send the signal when they spotted IS militants making their way down the Qarachok Mountain range toward Lheiban.

It was up to Zahir and other armed residents to fend them off.

"We were abandoned. The peshmerga was on one side, the Iraqi army on another and neither was intervening," he said.

A recent uptick in attacks on the village, with three in the first week of December alone, prompted many of the village's residents, who are mainly Kurds, to leave. Zahir moved his family to Debaga in the relative safety of the Kurdish-run north.

Once numbering 65 families, Lheiban now has only 12 left, said village mukhtar Yadgar Karim.

On Dec. 7, peshmerga and Iraqi forces moved into the village with plans to replicate coordination elsewhere across the disputed territories. Kurdish officials hoped this would prompt villagers to return. Maintaining a Kurdish population in the area is key to their territorial claims.

Zahir is not convinced. "I came to check on the situation only, I am too afraid to return," he said.

The peshmerga have positions all along the ridge of the Qarachok mountains. But they don't have orders to stop IS militants as they cross on attacks or to raid IS positions because of wariness over entering disputed territory, explained Col. Kahar Jawhar.

Moreover, the militants move at night, using tunnels and hiding in caves, and the peshmerga lack key equipment including night vision.

"That is why IS are able to terrorize the residents, because we can't see them," Jawhar said.

The talks to reestablish joint coordination centers between the Iraqi army and peshmerga began over two years ago, but fell apart because of deep mistrust and differences over how to carve out lines of control.

Under current Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, talks were rekindled, paving the way for an agreement to set up six joint coordination centers in Baghdad, Irbil, and across the disputed zone.

Kadhimi also agreed to establish two joint brigades to conduct anti-IS operations. But this is awaiting budget approval from Baghdad's Finance Ministry, said Hajar Ismail, peshmerga head of relations with the coalition.

Between 2009-2014, Iraqi and Kurdish forces conducted joint security in the northern provinces of Ninevah, Kirkuk and Diyala. But the collapse of the Iraqi army during the IS onslaught of 2014 ended the arrangement.

Kurdish authorities managed to solidify control over Kirkuk and other disputed areas during this time, even developing oil fields and conducting an independent export policy, to the ire of the federal government.

After Iraq declared victory over IS in 2017, Baghdad turned its sights to these areas, launching a military operation in October 2017 to retake them. Relations soured, with Baghdad cutting off budget allocations to the Kurdish region, rendering it unable to pay public sector workers and debts to oil companies.

Baghdad was long reluctant to resume security talks partly due to political optics in the capital, with many dominant Shiite parties deeply mistrustful of Kurdish intentions, according to federal officials.

The Popular Mobilization Forces, made up largely of Shiite militia groups close to Iran, has opposed joint patrols with the peshmerga. The PMF also has a powerful presence in many areas in the disputed zone.

So far, the PMF has been surprisingly quiet about the new joint arrangement, as it copes with a devastating loss in federal elections earlier this year.

But "at some point they will speak out against it," Zmkan Ali, a senior researcher at the Institute of Regional and International Studies, a research center in Sulaymaniyah.

The road to better coordination has often involved a common friend: The U.S.

Iraqi and Kurdish officials said the U.S.-led coalition's mediation and support were key in bringing parties to the table.

"They played an important role, coordinating with us and the Iraqi side," said Jawhar, the peshmerga based in Qarachok. "Without them we wouldn't speak — they wouldn't come here, and we wouldn't go there."

Both sides say they still need the Americans to play that role.

U.S. troops stopped direct involvement in combat months ago and have since been advising and training troops. That role will continue when the combat mission ends Dec. 31.

Former President Donald Trump filed a lawsuit Monday in federal court against New York Attorney General Letitia James. Above, Trump at a rally Sept. 25 in Perry, Ga. **BEN GRAY/AP**

Trump sues NY prosecutor in bid to halt business probe

By Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump sued New York Attorney General Letitia James on Monday, resorting to a familiar but seldom successful strategy as he seeks to end a yearslong civil investigation into his business practices that he alleges is purely political.

In the lawsuit, filed in federal court two weeks after James requested that Trump sit for a Jan. 7 deposition, Trump contends the probe into matters including his company's valuation of assets has violated his constitutional rights in a "thinly-veiled effort to publicly malign Trump and his associates."

The lawsuit describes James, a Democrat, as having "personal disdain for Trump" and points to numerous statements she's made targeting him in recent years, including her support of "die-in" protests against him, her boast that her office sued his administration 76 times and tweets during her 2018 campaign that she had her "eyes on Trump Tower" and that Trump was "running out of time."

"Her mission is guided solely by political animus and a desire to harass, intimidate, and retaliate against a private citizen who she views as a political opponent," the former president's lawyers wrote in the lawsuit, filed on behalf of Trump and his company, the Trump Organization.

In a statement, James said: "The Trump Organization has continually sought to delay our investigation into its business dealings and now Donald Trump and his namesake company have filed a lawsuit as an attempted collateral attack on that investigation."

"To be clear, neither Mr. Trump nor the Trump Organization get to dictate if and where they will answer for their actions. Our investigation will continue undeterred because no one is above the law, not even someone with the name Trump."

James had announced a run for New York governor in late October, but earlier this month, she suspended that campaign and cited ongoing investigations in her decision to instead seek reelection as state attorney general.

Trump, a Republican, seeks a permanent injunction barring James from investigating him and preventing her from being involved in any "civil or criminal" investigations against him and his company, such as a parallel criminal probe she's a part of that's being led by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. Trump also wants a judge to declare that James violated his free speech and due process rights.

New York University law professor Stephen Gillers said that while it's clear James "gave Trump ammunition to argue that she has a vendetta against him," the lawsuit remains a longshot for Trump, who has lost multiple lawsuits aimed at foiling investigators, including a multiyear U.S. Supreme Court fight that ended in February with Vance obtaining his tax records.

James has spent more than two years investigating whether the Trump Organization misled banks or tax officials about the value of assets.

Pentagon issues rules aimed at halting rise of extremism

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Warning that extremism in the ranks is increasing, Pentagon officials are issuing detailed new rules prohibiting service members from actively engaging in extremist activities. The new guidelines come nearly a year after some current and former service members participated in the riot at the U.S. Capitol, triggering a broad department review.

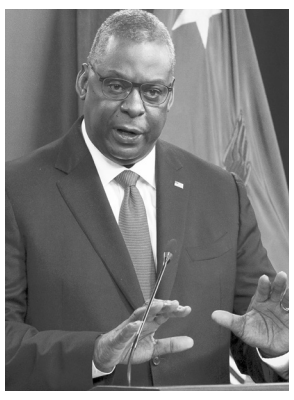
Senior defense officials tell The Associated Press that fewer than 100 military members are known to have been involved in substantiated cases of extremist activity in the past year, but they warn that the number may grow given recent spikes in domestic violent extremism, particularly among veterans.

Officials said the new policy doesn't largely change what is prohibited, but is more of an effort to make sure troops are clear on what they can and can't do, while still protecting their First Amendment free speech rights. And for the first time, it is far more specific about social media.

The new policy lays out in detail the banned activities, which range from advocating terrorism or supporting the overthrow of the government to fundraising or rallying on behalf of an extremist group or "liking" or reposting extremist views on social media.

The rules also specify that commanders must determine two things in order for someone to be held accountable: that the action was an extremist activity, as defined in the rules, and that the service member "actively participated" in that prohibited activity.

Previous policies banned extremist activities but didn't go into such great detail, and also did not specify the two-step process to determine someone accountable.



Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is trying to root out extremism in the military. **ALEX BRANDON/AP**

What was wrong yesterday is still wrong today, said one senior defense official. But several officials said that as a study group spoke with service members this year, they found that many wanted clearer definitions of what was not allowed. The officials spoke about the new rules on condition of anonymity because they have not yet been made public.

The military has long been aware of small numbers of white supremacists and other extremists among the troops.

But Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and other leaders launched a broader campaign to root out extremism in the force after it became clear that military veterans and some current service members were present at the Jan. 6 insurrection.

In a message to the force on Monday, Austin said the department believes that only a few service members violate their oath and participate in extremist activities.

But, he added, "even the actions of a few can have an outsized impact on unit cohesion, morale and readiness — and the physical harm some of these activities can engender can undermine the safety of our people."

The risk of extremism in the military can be more dangerous because many service members have access to classified information about sensitive military operations or other national security information that could help adversaries. And extremist groups routinely recruit former and current service members because of their familiarity with weapons and combat tactics.

Officials said that while the number of substantiated cases may be small, compared to the size of the military, which includes more than 2 million active duty and reserve troops, the number appears to be an increase over previous years where the totals were in the low two-digits.

But they also noted that data has not been consistent so it is difficult to identify trends.

The new rules do not provide a list of extremist organizations. Instead, it is up to commanders to determine if a service member is actively conducting extremist activities based on the definitions, rather than on a list of groups that may be constantly changing, officials said.

Asked whether troops can simply be members of an extremist organization, officials said the rules effectively prohibit membership in any meaningful way — such as the payment of dues or other actions that could be considered "active participation."

The regulations lay out six broad groups of extremist activities, and then provide 14 different definitions that constitute active participation.

Soon after taking office, Austin ordered military leaders to schedule a so-called "stand-down" day and spend time talking to their troops about extremism in the ranks.

The new rules apply to all of the military services.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Jury starts deliberating in trial of ex-Minn. cop who fatally shot Wright

From news services

MINNEAPOLIS — The suburban Minneapolis police officer who says she meant to use her Taser instead of her gun when she shot and killed Black motorist Daunte Wright made a "blunder of epic proportions" and did not have "a license to kill," a prosecutor told jurors on Monday shortly before they began deliberating in her manslaughter trial.

Kim Potter's attorney Earl Gray, though, countered during closing arguments that the former Brooklyn Center officer made an honest mistake by pulling her handgun instead of her Taser and that shooting Wright wasn't a crime.

"In the walk of life, nobody's perfect. Everybody makes mistakes," Gray said. "My gosh, a mistake is not a crime. It just isn't in our freedom-loving country."

The mostly white jury began deliberating shortly before 1 p.m. Potter, 49, is charged with first- and second-degree manslaughter in the April 11 shooting, which came after Wright was pulled over for having expired license plate tags and an air freshener hanging from his rearview mirror.

Prosecutor Erin Eldridge said during her summation that Wright's death was "entirely preventable. Totally avoidable." And claiming it was a mistake is not a defense, she said, pointing out that the words "accident" and "mistake" don't appear in jury instructions.

"Accidents can still be crimes if they occur as a result of reckless or culpable negligence," Eldridge said.

Gray argued that Wright "caused the whole incident" because he tried to flee from police during a traffic stop. Potter mistakenly grabbed her gun instead of her Taser because the traffic stop "was chaos," he said.

Wright's death set off angry demonstrations for several days in Brooklyn Center. It happened as another white officer, Derek Chauvin, was standing trial in nearby Minneapolis for the killing of George Floyd.

State sentencing guidelines call for just over seven years in prison upon conviction of first-degree manslaughter and four years for second-degree, though prosecutors have said they plan to push for longer sentences.

Asia storm toll rises: The death toll from the strongest typhoon to batter the Philippines this year climbed to 375, with more than 50 others still missing, officials said Monday.

At its strongest, Typhoon Rai packed sustained winds of 121 mph with gusts of up to 168 mph before blowing out into the South China Sea on Friday.

The death toll may still increase because several towns and villages remained out of reach due to downed communications and power outages, although massive cleanup and repair efforts were underway.

Many were killed by falling trees and collapsing walls, flash floods and landslides.

More than 700,000 people were lashed by the typhoon in central island provinces, including over 400,000 who had to be moved to emergency shelters.

Greece border wall: Greece says it will renew a request for European Union funds in 2022 to extend a border wall along its frontier with Turkey and promised to expand a surveillance network aimed at stopping migrants entering the country illegally.

Waiting for help: A man waits for a rescue team Monday in Shah Alam, a city in Malaysia's Selangor state that saw weekend floods. Prime Minister Sabri Yaakob said Monday that the amount of rain that fell Saturday on Selangor "would usually fall in one month." Over 10,000 people have been evacuated from the area around the capital of Kuala Lumpur. ARIF KARTONO/GETTY-AFP

Takis Theodorikakos, a public order minister, told a parliamentary committee that Greece expects some countries bordering the EU to continue to exploit migration to exert political pressure on member states, citing the recent crisis in Belarus on its border with Poland and other EU members.

Greece's center-right government has toughened the country's migration policy and recently completed a 16-mile extension of a steel border wall to make the barrier span 24 miles.

"We believe the security on our own borders is linked to the security of the EU," Theodorikakos said, adding that border walls and fences are normally funded by national governments.

A control center processing data from newly-built border surveillance towers equipped with long-range cameras and multiple sensors was due to begin operating in early 2022, he said.

Pope decries violence: Pope Francis has denounced domestic violence against a woman as "nearly satanic" and said parents should never slap their children.

Francis made the comments in a televised encounter with an abused woman who recently fled her home with her four children. Their meeting was broadcast late Sunday on the private Mediaset network's TG5 program and also included footage of Francis interacting with a homeless woman, a prisoner and a student.

The abused woman told the pope her story and asked him how she can find her dignity after she and her children suffered so much violence.

Francis, who has spoken out about "femicides," responded by acknowledging the problem of domestic violence, which regularly makes headlines in Italy.

"For me the problem is nearly satanic, because it's about profiting off the weakness of those who can't defend themselves, who can only try to stop the blows," he said. "It's humiliating, very humiliating."

Former Ukraine leader: Ukrainian authorities on Monday notified the country's former president that he is suspected of high treason and "aiding terrorist organizations" in Ukraine's eastern separatist territories.

A statement by the State Bureau of Investigation of Ukraine said the former President Petro Poroshenko is suspected of facilitating the activities of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's republics — the two pro-Russia separatist governments in the eastern rebel area — by having his government buy coal from the separatist territories in 2014-2015.

Poroshenko, 56, served as Ukraine's fifth president from 2014 to 2019 until losing in an election to the current president Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Poroshenko faces up to 15 years in prison with confiscation of property if found guilty.

Georgia spaceport: A federal agency on Monday granted a license for a launchpad that would fly commercial rockets from coastal Georgia.

The Federal Aviation Administration's approval of a launch site operator license for Spaceport Camden marks a significant milestone for the project.

Still, the FAA says that more comprehensive reviews would be needed before any rockets can be launched.

In its 36-page decision, the FAA said it considered potential impacts to the climate and environment, public comments, and the agency's responsibility to encourage and promote commercial space launches by the private sector

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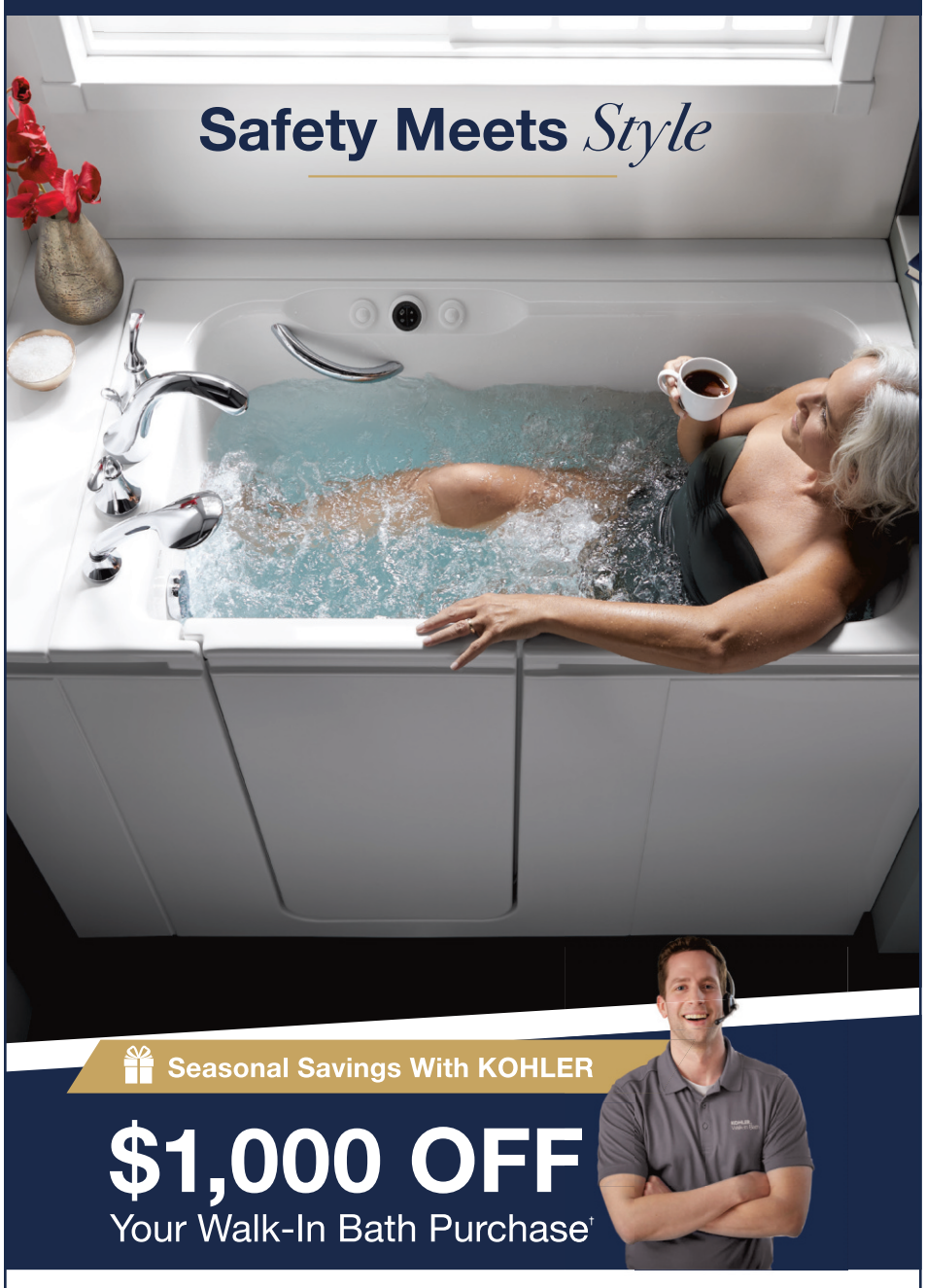

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BUSINESS

Biden reverses Trump's rollback of mileage rules

New fuel standards for 2023 models designed to curb vehicle tailpipe emissions

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a major step to fight climate change, the Biden administration is raising vehicle mileage standards to significantly reduce emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases, reversing a Trump-era rollback that loosened fuel efficiency standards.

A final rule issued Monday would raise mileage standards starting in the 2023 model year, reaching a projected industry-wide target of 40 miles per gallon by 2026. The new standard is 25% higher than a rule finalized by the Trump administration last year and 5% higher than a proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency in August.

"We are setting robust and rigorous standards that will aggressively reduce the pollution that is harming people and our planet — and save families money at the same time," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said. He called the rule "a giant step forward" in delivering on President Joe Biden's climate agenda "while paving the way toward an all-electric, zero-emissions transportation future.?

The move comes a day after Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin delivered a potentially fatal blow to Biden's $2 trillion social and environmental policy bill, jeopardizing Democrats' agenda.

The now-stalled bill includes a $7,500 tax credit to buyers to lower the cost of electric vehicles.

Regan said that even without the EV tax credits and other incentives, "we believe that we proposed a rule that is doable."

The new mileage rules are the most ambitious tailpipe pollution standards ever set for passenger cars and light trucks. The standards raise mileage goals set by the Trump administration that would achieve only 32 miles per gallon in 2026. Biden had set a goal of 38 mpg in August.

The standards also will help expand the market share of zero emissions vehicles, the administration said, with a goal of battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles reaching 17% of new vehicles sold in 2026. EVs and plug-in hybrids are expected to have about 7% market share in 2023.

The EPA said the rule would not only slow climate change, but also improve public health by reducing air pollution and lower costs for drivers through improved fuel efficiency.

Biden has set a goal of cutting U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by at least half by 2030 as he pushes a history-making shift in the U.S. from internal combustion engines to battery-powered vehicles.

He has urged that components needed to make that sweeping change — from batteries to semiconductors — be made in the United States, too, aiming for both industry and union support for the environmental effort, with the promise of new jobs and billions in federal electric vehicle investments.

The new standards provide adequate time for auto manufacturers to comply at reasonable costs, the administration said. EPA's analysis shows the industry can comply with the standards with modest increases in the numbers of EVs.

BNSF says it plans to test a hydrogen-powered locomotive. Above, a BNSF train at a terminal in Galesburg, Illinois. **SHAFKAT ANOWAR/AP**

Freight rails target emissions

Alternative locomotive fuels being tested by industry, but systemic change is still far off

By Josh Funk
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The major freight railroads across North America continue to experiment with alternative locomotive fuels as a way to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

BNSF railroad said recently that it plans to test out a hydrogen-powered locomotive along its lines, joining Canadian Pacific in experimenting with that technology. Canadian National railroad recently announced plans to test out a battery-powered locomotive to haul freight across Pennsylvania, and Union Pacific has said it would like to try battery-powered locomotives in some of its railyards once they are more widely available.

Several other past tests at other railroads have looked at natural gas-powered locomotives and battery-powered options. Using some combination of these new fuel options will be key to helping the railroads achieve their goals to significantly cut their emissions in the coming years.

Both of the major locomotive manufacturers, Wabtec and Caterpillar's Progress Rail unit, are working on developing locomotives that use other fuels.

But the railroads all caution that these are only pilot tests at this stage, and the new technology won't be ready to start replacing the diesel workhorses that have been pulling freight across the continent since World War II for at least several more years.

"This technology could one day be a lower-carbon solution for line-haul service, as it has the potential to reduce carbon emissions and remain cost competitive," said John Lovenburg, BNSF's vice president of environmental.

Wabtec's Vice President of Engineering Alan Hamilton said his company is already selling a production version of its battery-powered locomotive to some railroads after it was tested out in California earlier this year. And Wabtec is working on a variety of other approaches to improve the efficiency of all its locomotives regardless of the fuel they use. But the major railroads will likely phase in the new technology gradually as they upgrade their locomotives over time.

"We really aren't focused on just one technology," Hamilton said. "We're focused on a whole range of technologies and how they work in the customer's network."

BNSF didn't say how quickly it expects the hydrogen-powered locomotive from Progress Rail it plans to use will be ready to try out while a Canadian Pacific spokesman said it plans to begin using three hydrogen-powered locomotives around the province of Alberta sometime next year. CP received a $15 million grant earlier this year to double the amount it planned to invest in the program.

Before the railroads could make wholesale changes in their locomotive fleets, they would have to invest millions in new fueling stations and other infrastructure. And any changes would likely have to be somewhat standardized across the industry because the major freight railroads regularly pass locomotives back and forth to keep trains moving efficiently.

Another thing that will likely slow the transition to new fuels is that railroads typically use locomotives for decades to get the most out of their investment in them.

The Association of American Railroads trade group points out that railroads are already significantly more efficient than trucks at delivering freight.

Biogen cuts price of Alzheimer's drug in half

By Tom Murphy
Associated Press

Biogen is slashing the price of its Alzheimer's treatment in half months after it debuted to widespread criticism for an initial cost that could reach $56,000 annually.

The drugmaker said Monday that it will cut the wholesale acquisition cost of the drug by about 50% next month. That means the annual cost for a person of average weight will amount to $28,200.

The actual amount that person would pay will depend on factors like insurance coverage.

Biogen CEO Michel Vounatsos said in a statement that too many patients were not being offered the drug due to "financial considerations," and their disease had progressed beyond the point where Aduhelm could help.

Aduhelm is the first in a line of new drugs that promise to do what no other Alzheimer's treatment has managed: slow the progress of the fatal brain-destroying disease, rather than just managing its symptoms.

The drug received FDA approval in June, and the agency later said it was appropriate for patients with mild symptoms or early-stage Alzheimer's.

But Aduhelm's debut has been slowed by concerns over the price and research behind the drug. Some insurers have balked at paying for the drug, while medical centers across the country have been either slow to decide on using the drug or said they weren't planning to prescribe it for now.

Biogen said in June that it would not raise its price on the drug for four years.

Last month, Medicare announced one of the largest increases ever in its "Part B" monthly premium for outpatient care. It said it would raise the premium nearly $22, from $148.50 to $170.10 starting in January.

The agency said about half of that hike was due to the need for a contingency fund to cover Aduhelm.

Medicare is expected to be one of the main payers for the drug.

Aduhelm clears brain plaque thought to play a role in Alzheimer's disease.

Turkish lira sinks amid policy to lower rates

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — The beleaguered Turkish currency reached another record low against the U.S. dollar Monday, a day after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stood firm on his policy to lower interest rates despite rising consumer prices and slammed business groups that called for a change of course.

The lira tumbled to an all-time low of 18.25 against the dollar — some 10% weaker from Friday's close. The Turkish currency has depreciated by nearly 60% against the dollar since the start of the year.

Even though official figures show that annual inflation has accelerated to 21%, the Central Bank has cut a key interest rate by 5 percentage points — to 14% — since September. The bank is widely believed to be acting under pressure from Erdogan, who has proclaimed himself an enemy of interest rates and dismissed three bank governors over reported disagreements on borrowing costs.

Erdogan has long argued that high interest rates cause inflation, contrary to conventional economic thinking. He has vowed to keep rates low and prioritize growth, exports and employment.

The weakened lira is driving prices higher, making imports, fuel and everyday goods more expensive. Many people in the country of more than 83 million are struggling to buy food and other basic needs.

Erdogan vowed Sunday to continue to keep interest rates low, citing Islamic teachings against usury, saying: "Don't expect anything else from me."

In separate speeches Sunday, he also pledged to bring inflation down to 4% as his government has done in the past. He dismissed speculation that his government may implement capital controls by expressing commitment to free market rules.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Japan OKs $317B auxiliary budget

TOKYO — Japan's parliament Monday approved a record extra budget of nearly $317 billion for the fiscal year through March to help out pandemic-hit households and businesses.

The budget largely is to fund COVID-19 measures, including booster shot vaccines and oral medicines. It also includes cash payouts for families with children and a promotion campaign for the hard-hit tourism industry, which critics said are pork barrel giveaways.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the supplementary budget is meant to revive an economy not yet fully recovered from the pandemic and to achieve stronger growth and a more equitable distribution of wealth under his "new capitalism" policy.

Davos forum put on hold — again

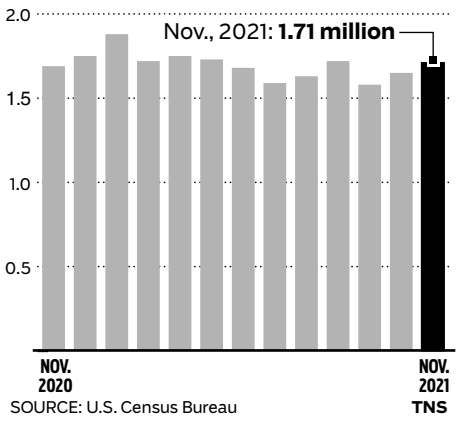
GENEVA — The World Economic Forum is again delaying its much-ballyhooed annual meeting of world leaders, business executives and other elites in Davos, Switzerland, amid new uncertainties about the omicron variant of the coronavirus.

The forum, which repeatedly delayed, moved and finally canceled last year's event, says the previously planned Jan. 17-21 gathering in the alpine town will now take place in "early summer" — without giving specifics.

Switzerland on Friday announced requirements to show proof of vaccination or COVID-19 recovery to go to restaurants and indoor events amid a spike in COVID-19 infections tied to omicron in recent weeks, largely of the delta variant.

New residential construction

New housing unit permits authorized, in millions



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau
TNS

BUSINESS

Kosovo prison guards inspect the fence of the 300-cell prison in Gjilan, southeast of the capital of Pristina, Kosovo, where Denmark would run the new facility. **AP/STR**

Kosovo, Denmark ironing out prison rent agreement

By Sylejman Kllokoqi and Llazar Semini
Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Kosovo is hopeful that a deal with Denmark to rent 300 prison cells to help the Scandinavian country cope with its overpopulated prison system would help upgrade its correctional service and also cope with the energy crisis.

The Justice Ministry has said the small Balkan country would be paid $236 million from Denmark for a 10-year agreement, which will fund Kosovo's justice system and renewable energy projects.

Last week, Danish Justice Minister Nick Haekkerup said the agreement with Kosovo would help "expand the prison capacity in Denmark by several hundred places."

Eris Hana, a senior legal adviser with Kosovo's Justice Ministry and also part of the negotiating team, said the deal also included a donation of "more than $68 million for 10 years" to help Kosovo build green energy.

Kosovo's energy system, totally based on coal production, is in crisis, producing only 60% of daily consumption, which has resulted in daily cuts.

The Danes have conducted a research study from that concluded that Kosovo's correctional institutions "have the best infrastructure in the region and also have the capacity to take 300 inmates," Hana said.

Haekkerup, the Danish minister, said Friday that "it will be a groundbreaking and historic agreement that will both create space in our prisons and ease the pressure on our prison officers," Denmark will expand the capacity of Danish prisons by creating 326 new places in existing jails.

Kosovo's prison system has a capacity of up to 2,000, from which about 400 are still free.

The plan is for the 300-cell prison in Gjilan, 30 miles southeast of the capital, Pristina, to be used to house the inmates from Denmark, according to Hana.

A Danish warden will run the new 300-cell facility, accompanied by an Albanian one and other local staff.

Fatmira Haliti of the Kosovo Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims, a nonprofit organization that monitors the system, said that transferring about 200 inmates from Gjilan prison to make way for Danish prisoners would naturally overpopulate other prisons.

Despite systemic improvements and some new facilities in recent years, "Kosovo's correctional service leaves much to desire and can hardly be compared to those in Denmark," Haliti said.

Hana said they aren't speeding up negotiations, which are considering every detail. The Danish delegation is requesting investment in infrastructure.

"We want to create the same standard for them and we will achieve it," he said, referring to Denmark's prison standards.

Following the letter of intent to be signed next week, the agreement is expected to be signed early next year and then both countries' parliaments should ratify it.

As world economies fight inflation, Japan still chases it

By Elaine Kurtenbach
Associated Press

People shop in Yokohama, Japan. Surging prices are haunting consumers in the U.S., but not in Japan, where sparking inflation has proven an elusive goal. **KOJI SASAHARA/AP 2020**

Surging prices are haunting consumers and confounding economic planners in the U.S. and other countries, but not in Japan, where sparking inflation has proven an elusive goal.

While the Federal Reserve and most other central banks are shifting into inflation-fighting mode, the Bank of Japan on Friday said it would scale back corporate bond purchases to pre-pandemic levels. But it will continue pumping tens of billions of dollars into the economy in hopes of eventually attaining its elusive 2% inflation target and getting the economy to grow faster.

With outbreaks of the omicron variant of coronavirus looming in many parts of the world, "high uncertainties" persist, it said.

The chances of hitting that target anytime soon remain "slim," Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics said in a report. "The upshot is that the Bank of Japan will remain among the few central banks that won't tighten policy for the foreseeable future."

Inflation was 0.1% in October. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, it was negative. The BOJ is forecasting 0% inflation for the fiscal year that ends in March.

By contrast, U.S. consumer prices grew 6.2% in October over the previous 12 months, the most in three decades.

During the pandemic, the Federal Reserve and other central banks unleashed a barrage of monetary stimulus similar to Japan's, taking interest rates to record lows in some cases. Now that the U.S. and other economies are on the mend and prices are surging, the Federal Reserve and other central banks are moving to wind that down without snuffing out economic recoveries.

With U.S. inflation nearing a 40-year high, Fed policymakers on Wednesday announced plans to shrink the central bank's monthly bond purchases twice as fast as earlier planned. That puts it on a path to begin raising interest rates within the first half of 2022.

Japan's economy began slowing in the early 1990s with the collapse of a financial bubble and has never really regained momentum. Companies are wary of hiring, raising salaries or investing, given the bleak growth outlook for a country whose quickly aging population is shrinking. Combatting deflation, or falling prices, has been the priority.

For nearly a decade, the Bank of Japan has been buying massive amounts of government bonds and other assets to keep borrowing costs in the world's third-largest economy near zero and, theoretically, entice consumers and companies to spend more to beat future price increases.

The benchmark interest rate has been at minus 0.1% for years.

Rents are still roughly where they were 30 years ago and prices for most consumer goods have risen, but not by as much as elsewhere.

But even Japan, which imports much of what it consumes, is not entirely immune to the surge in prices across the globe, and some of the higher costs being paid by consumers elsewhere may just be slow to catch up.

Wholesale inflation hit its highest level in 40 years in October, at 8%. Manufacturers and farmers are feeling the squeeze of rising costs, especially for fuel.

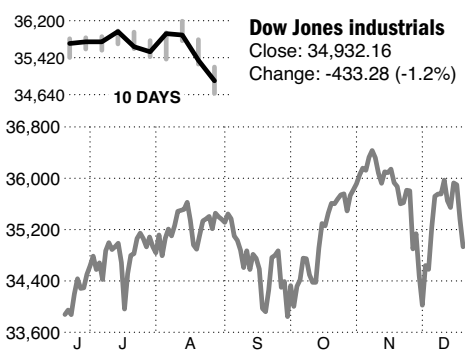
Costs for gasoline, and other fuels, electricity and gas rates have been creeping upward. Some food brands have announced plans to raise prices next year.

And then there is "stealth inflation," as manufacturers plump their profit margins by selling less of the same products — candy bars, boxed lunches, tissues and rice balls, for example — for the same prices.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

DOW 34,932.16 -433.28 ▼
10-YR T-BOND 1.42% +.02 ▲
GOLD $1,793.70 -10.10 ▼



Dow Jones industrials
Close: 34,932.16
Change: -433.28 (-1.2%)

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,932.16	-433.28	+14.13%
DOW Trans.	15,585.27	-243.70	+24.61%
DOW Util.	952.08	+2.01	+10.11%
NYSE Comp.	16,442.31	-226.33	+13.20%
Nasdaq Comp.	14,980.94	-188.74	+16.24%
S&P 500	4,568.02	-52.62	+21.62%
S&P 400	2,680.89	-47.19	+16.23%
Wilshire 5000	46,439.52	-588.80	+17.70%
Russell 2000	2,139.87	-34.06	+8.36%

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	68.23	70.86	+40.62%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.83	3.69	+51.00%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.09	2.12	+46.79%
METALS	**CLOSE**	**PREV.**	**YTD**
Gold (oz)	1,793.70	1,803.80	-5.25%
Silver (oz)	22.28	22.51	-15.41%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. $	U.S. $ in ForEx
Britain	1.3203	.7574
Canada	.7724	1.2947
China	.1568	6.3757
Euro	1.1275	.8869
Japan	.008794	113.72
Mexico	.048180	20.7555

Money Rates

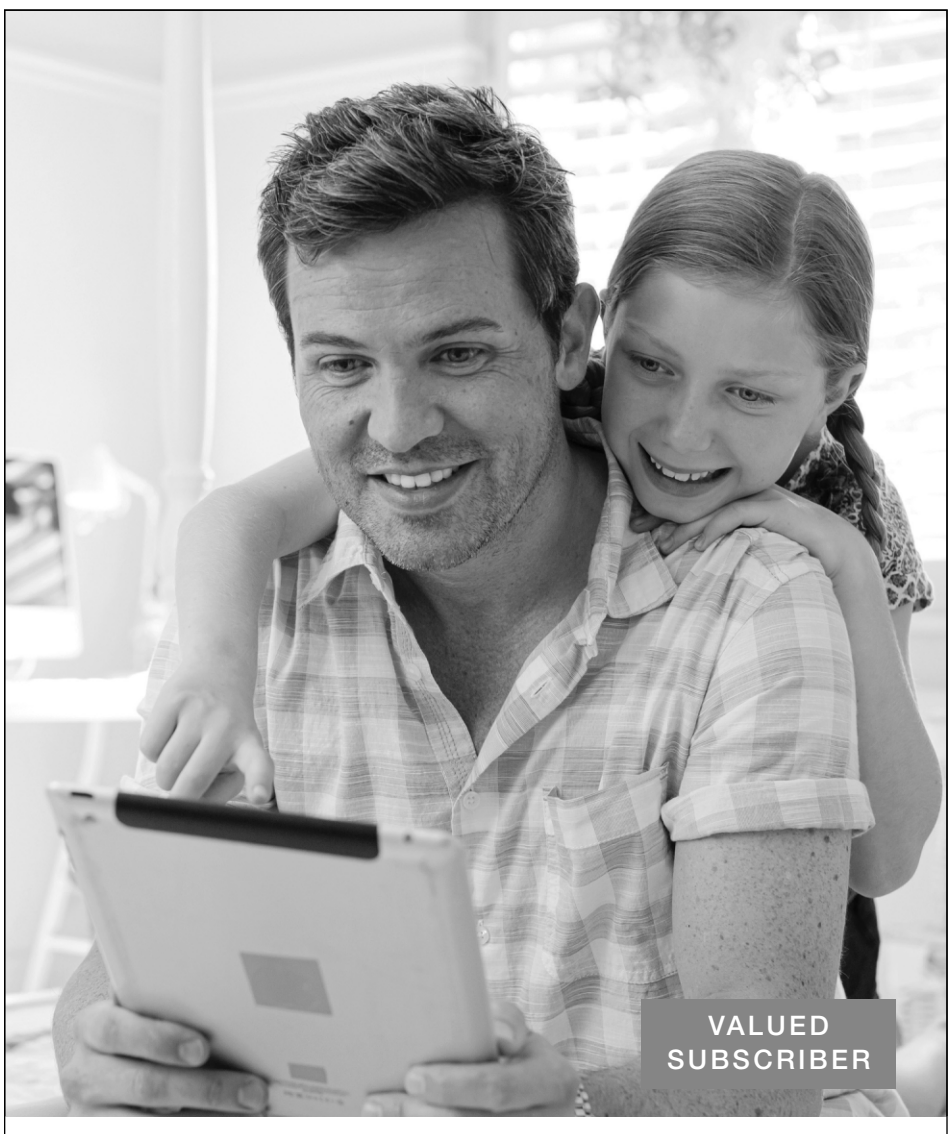
	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25
3-mo. T-Bill	0.07	0.06
6-mo. T-Bill	0.16	0.13
5-yr T-Note	1.17	1.21
10-yr T-Note	1.42	1.43
30-yr T-Bond	1.85	1.75

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	15,239.67	-292.02	-1.88%	+11.09%
London	7,198.03	-71.89	-.99%	+11.42%
Hong Kong	22,744.86	-447.77	-1.93%	-16.47%
Nikkei	27,937.81	-607.87	-2.13%	+1.80%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	29.70	+.58	+1300.9
AT&T Inc (T)	24.19	+.41	-15.9
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	135.80	-1.95	+48.1
AeroClean Tech Inc (AERC)	11.31	+2.85	-85.7
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.30	+.35	+9.7
Amphenol Corp (APH)	81.14	-1.14	...
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	7.79	-.14	-7.8
Apple Inc (AAPL)	169.75	-1.39	+27.9
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	48.06	+.15	+5.7
Bank of America (BAC)	43.16	-.72	+42.4
Barnes Group (B)	43.61	-1.53	-14.0
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2208.75	-1.71	-.8
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	61.72	+.16	-.5
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	100.32	-.04	+46.9
Carnival Corp (CCL)	18.90	+.62	-12.7
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	50.91	-1.35	+35.0
Cerner Corp (CERN)	90.49	+.72	+15.3
Charter Communic (CHTR)	646.76	-3.24	-2.2
Cigna Corp (CI)	217.00	-2.62	+4.2
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	60.36	-.10	+34.9
Citigroup (C)	58.28	-1.26	-5.5
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	48.40	-.35	-7.6
Disney (DIS)	146.47	-2.29	-19.2
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	118.31	-3.19	+29.4
Ethan Allen (ETD)	24.14	-.85	+19.4
Eversource Energy (ES)	89.67	+.27	+3.7
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	59.16	-.87	+43.5
Ford Motor (F)	19.42	-.35	+120.9
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.05	-.26	-45.8
Galera Therapeutics (GRTX)	3.79	+.83	-63.0
Gen Dynamics (GD)	198.68	-3.52	+33.5
Gen Electric (GE)	89.98	-1.39	+4.4
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	66.10	-1.60	+35.0
Honeywell Intl (HON)	199.85	-5.32	-6.0
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.48	-.51	+16.9
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	23.69	-.35	+39.8
Intel Corp (INTC)	49.60	-1.02	-.4
Kaman (KAMN)	39.81	-1.66	-30.3
Keycorp (KEY)	22.07	-.44	+34.5
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	62.86	-2.90	+24.9
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	37.99	-2.02	+41.6
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	42.07	-.21	+33.5
Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.40	-.05	+14.0
Marathon Oil (MRO)	14.86	-.29	+122.8
Metacrine Inc (MTCR)	1.04	-.32	-86.8
MetLife Inc (MET)	58.59	-1.66	+24.8
Micron Tech (MU)	82.03	-.97	+9.1
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	319.91	-3.89	+43.8
Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)	20.74	+.41	-18.4
Novartis AG (NVS)	85.35	-.55	-9.6
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	277.19	-.82	+112.3
Occid Petl (OXY)	26.98	-1.06	+55.9
Ocugen Inc (OCGN)	5.17	-.07	+182.5
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	82.33	-1.83	+21.9
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	17.96	-1.10	-23.7
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	16.57	-.20	+28.2
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	61.02	+1.54	+65.8
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.28	-.53	+1.9
Plug Power Inc (PLUG)	27.33	-2.42	-19.4
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	101.61	-3.77	+30.2
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	64.09	...	+9.9
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	81.03	-1.25	+13.3
Rogers Corp (ROG)	270.37	+1.37	+74.1
SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	78.45	-1.51	+7.8
SeaChange Intl Inc (SEAC)	2.10	+.56	+50.0
Society Pass Inc (SOPA)	11.26	+7.95	-76.7
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	14.59	-.06	-35.6
Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	4.36	-.15	+46.3
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	177.94	-5.76	-.3
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	22.73	-.56	+17.8
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.59	-.01	+24.9
Terex Corp (TEX)	40.60	-1.42	+16.4
Tilray Inc (TLRY)	7.46	-.52	-9.7
Travelers Cos (TRV)	153.53	-4.66	+9.4
Uber Technologies (UBER)	39.70	+.02	-22.2
United Rentals (URI)	321.98	-10.35	+38.8
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	483.73	-3.39	+37.9
Verizon Comm (VZ)	53.09	-.08	-9.6
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	278.82	-10.91	+28.5
Voya Financial (VOYA)	61.57	-1.22	+4.7
Webster Financial (WBS)	51.73	-.68	+22.7
Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	46.85	-1.10	+55.2
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1000.85	-13.19	...
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	47.78	-.38	-.6
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	70.35	-.99	+1.4
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.16	-.35	-13.1
Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	6.47	-.10	-34.4



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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Glastonbury kids: Henry the dog is your role model

Perhaps the adults who attended the Glastonbury Board of Education meeting about the school mascot that ended in a fight could learn something about what really matters from Glastonbury's own Henry the Hero Boston terrier, who saved a life [Connecticut, Page 1, Dec. 16, "Glastonbury dog saves baby's life"]. And hopefully, the students know where to look for role models and doing the right thing. Read the same-day Courant's headline, front page, above the fold: "Mascot debate turns violent," and weep.

Susan E. Lennon, Hartford

Any Glastonbury Native Americans weighing in?

Glastonbury has put itself "on the map" after a man, who apparently is so devoted to Tomahawks that he would risk assault charges, is shown punching a school board member [Page 1, Dec. 16, "Mascot debate turns violent"]. I wonder (in this instance and the thousands like it across the country), just how many of the 2,500 reported petitioners determined to keep Tomahawk as a "wonderful symbol to respectfully educate students and residents and respectfully celebrate Native American heritage," are Native American?

Your outrage is an embarrassment for you, Glastonbury. History is closing in on you. The future is arriving; and, all the fists and guns in the world aren't going to stop it.

Randal McChesney, Bellevue, Washington

School board member was the aggressor

I have been a Glastonbury resident since 1981. I was at the board of education meeting on Dec. 14. I was surprised to read the account you printed [Page 1, Dec. 16, "Mascot debate turns violent"]. The video covered only the confrontation.

Here is an eyewitness account: After a break, at about 8:40 p.m., committee members began to come onto the stage, and the committee person shown in the video walked up the aisle for about 50 feet when he began a heated discussion with a resident. Your coverage would have been more accurate if the account of the incident was logged about 30 seconds earlier. I don't know either of the people involved. I just wanted to set the record straight: The board member initiated the argument and was the aggressor.

Dennis C. DeAngelis, Glastonbury

Eliminate traffic lights in Portland

I was dismayed when I read that Gov. Ned Lamont and Congressman John Larson did not include the elimination of traffic lights along Route 9 in Portland and Middletown. Since moving to Portland in 2006 I have read of the many studies to eliminate the traffic lights at a minimal cost. Traffic, especially in the summer, is frustrating.

Victor Bonanno, Portland

Affordable housing should take priority

Many interesting projects are coming to Connecticut towns. But what are our priorities as a society? Housing for the homeless and people living in squalid housing should be a priority of every board and committee. The idea that 20% of the few housing projects mentioned is reserved for affordable housing is a ruse to salve the conscience of those who know better. Let's address the real needs of our state before wasting money on pet projects.

Patricia Beaudoin, Bloomfield

Tell Us Your Story

Please send us your true stories, written in your voice.

Love Etc. Stories from the heart — your essays about emotional life in the 21st century.

Why I... In which you explain why you feel so strongly about something in Connecticut.

First Person: In which you explain a deeply private issue against the backdrop of social and economic forces.

Living Here: What is it really like to live in Connecticut?

We welcome all submissions and will publish the best. We especially look for younger writers and those whose voices aren't heard often enough. Essays should be 600-700 words, written in the first person and emailed to oped@courant.com.

Vernon resident Jared Freeman, left, receives a COVID-19 vaccine boost from Vernon firefighter and EMT Chris Prue during a vaccination clinic run by the town of Vernon. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

OP-ED

Vaccine policies should be enforced to protect all of us

By Emily Scott

The pandemic has brought forward an important topic that has been controversial for many, even before our current situation. The health policy of mandatory vaccinations has been an ongoing issue, putting those who oppose against those who approve. Enforcing and creating health policies that protect society is of vital importance, especially now during the pandemic. Mandatory vaccination policies should be enforced to protect the health and well-being of all in our society.

I have been a registered nurse for eight years with most of my career being spent in an intensive care unit (ICU). I have seen firsthand the impact that being unvaccinated has on the individual, their families and the community. Working in the ICU through a pandemic has been one of the most challenging and emotionally draining experiences in my life.

Watching people die alone at the beginning of the pandemic was horrifying and scary because we had nothing to prevent it from happening. Now, when people come into the ICU with a diagnosis of COVID-19, the emotions are still just as high, but many ask if getting the vaccine would help. Unfortunately, by that time it is too late. We have seen individuals who were previously vaccinated improve and go home to their loved ones. The unvaccinated often do not make it out of the hospital.

Personal choice and freedom are privileges that we as citizens of the United States cherish. Mandating vaccines to some is considered un-American. Freedom of choice, though important, can negatively impact the health of a society. We have seen the positive effects of mandated health policies and laws passed in the past, such as wearing shirts and shoes in establishments, using seat belts and not smoking in buildings. Health care policies such as these protect society from the negative impact that can result from not following them. Yes, we have individual choices and rights. However, despite the need for freedom of choice and an individual's liberty, the need to protect society from harm is essential to the health of society, therefore vaccine mandating policies outweigh an individual's right to choose.

The individual choice to be unimmunized increases the risk of illness for that individual, but also weakens protection for the entire community and decreases the potential to reach herd immunity.

Many people continue to lack trust in vaccinations in general. This is even more of an issue with the COVID-19 vaccinations because of the emergency-use authorization. The general public and even some health care professionals have the impression that vaccines are not safe because they have not been thoroughly tested and were rapidly developed. However, according to Dr. Chris Beyrer of Johns Hopkins University, mRNA vaccines, such as those used against the COVID-19 virus, have been studied since the 1960s and already were used and developed against the Ebola virus.

Worldwide, mandated vaccinations have profoundly decreased the occurrence of several infectious diseases, with most childhood diseases declining by 99% and resulting in an all-time low transmission rate, according to Kevin Malone and Alan Hinman in "Law in Public Health Practice." Teaching the public how vaccines have benefited the world, decreasing misinformation, and gaining trust in the public health care system, are some ways we can increase confidence in the use of vaccines.

Vaccine mandating is one of the most important and crucial ways that we can protect society from the negative effects of disease that affects not only an individual's health but the health of our economy, our country and mankind as well.

Throughout history, mandatory vaccines have saved millions of lives. In fact, it is a very good possibility that because of mandatory vaccines, I am here to write this, and you are here to read it. Enforcing mandatory vaccine policies is one of the most important and effective ways we can protect everyone in society and the world.

Emily Scott is a nurse at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington and lives in Harwinton

OP-ED

Omicron has added to fatigue, but now is not time to give up

By Eric J. Topol

The holidays should be a time for getting together with friends and family, but instead we have a double dose of coronavirus strains — Delta and omicron. Whether we are exhausted from the pandemic or not, we still need to prevent the spread of infections. Fortunately, we know what works.

For indoor gatherings, each person should be fully vaccinated with a booster shot, or, for someone with a confirmed prior COVID infection, at least one vaccine dose. They all should have frequent rapid antigen tests for the days before and time of gathering. These tests screen for whether a person is infectious, which is far more important than whether they have been infected but not capable of transmitting the virus. Ideally, all gatherings would be outdoors, but if that's not possible, maximizing ventilation with windows open or HEPA air filtration with CO2 monitoring provides good air quality.

Unfortunately, most people won't be willing or able to take these precautions for various reasons.

Rapid antigen tests are not widely available unless you happen to live in Colorado, where they are being distributed for free. The United States has never gotten testing on the right track since the first day of the pandemic, and that is still the case.

In Europe, more than 60 rapid tests are approved by the regulatory authorities. They are freely available in many countries or for nominal cost from vending machines or pharmacies. In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration has been very slow to provide clearance for the tests, with only a handful on the market (Binax is the most common). But these tests remain expensive at around $8 each, which makes frequent or daily testing much too costly for most people.

While the rapid tests are a limiting factor, using medical grade masks shouldn't be. Both KN95 or N95 masks are widely available, inexpensive, and well worth the added layer of protection against delta or omicron, both of which are far more contagious than earlier variants. Yes, it's unrealistic for people at holiday gatherings to be wearing KN95 masks, especially sharing a meal, but wearing them is still worthwhile when possible.

The greater danger is the false sense of security and complacency among the public after living with the pandemic for nearly two years. Many people, after reading early reports suggesting omicron might be a milder form of the virus, are asking "Why should I worry?"

First, we don't have any evidence that omicron is milder than delta. We know it has induced less severe illness, fewer hospitalizations and deaths. But the primary explanation for that is not the virus, it is our immunity built up from either prior infections, vaccinations, or both.

Second, you should worry because an infection can spread to infections in others, so vulnerable people such as the aged or immunocompromised can get hit. The person infected can still get quite ill with high fevers, loss of smell and taste, and other symptoms, even if there is no pneumonia or other organ injury besides the lungs. Importantly, there is the concern about long COVID, which can be an enduring, disabling complex of symptoms, including profound fatigue, breathlessness, brain fog, and other features even in people with mild infections. We don't know yet how common long COVID will be for omicron infections and whether vaccinations protect from this condition.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is in the midst of a second surge of delta with over 120,000 new confirmed cases a day, more than 1,200 deaths a day, and currently with more than 66,000 patients in the hospital. Omicron is just getting started, still in single digit percentages, but will double as the cause of infections every 2-3 days. In a matter of weeks, omicron is certain to become the dominant strain throughout the country. With omicron displacing delta, we will likely see more than a million new cases a day in the United States, as projected from new records seen in Southern Africa, Britain, Denmark, Norway and other countries that have already seen a rise in omicron.

Even if omicron yields an overall milder picture of sickness than earlier variants, the enormous number of people infected means we will see the vulnerable — the aged, the immunocompromised, the unvaccinated, and those who have been vaccinated but whose immunity has waned — needing hospitalization and those numbers will likely be substantial. That means our medical providers and resources will likely be overrun again.

That's why we need to plan for the worst, hope for the best. Soon we will have potent drugs to help treat infections in their early days and prevent the progression of illness, and on the horizon are prospects for a universal vaccine against all coronaviruses and protection against future variants.

But for now, we should use every tool at our disposal to limit the spread of the virus strains. Only in that way will we make progress in transitioning COVID-19 to an endemic disease from the seemingly endless pandemic we face now.

Eric J. Topol is a professor of molecular medicine at Scripps Research and author of the newsletter Ground Truths.

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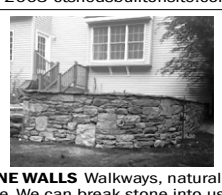

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Announcements

Lost/Found

IMPOUND - #138 Pitbull, Tan & White, Male. Call Hartford PD at 860-757-4000.

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PORSCHE 914 1974 - $2200 Solid Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-209-6629

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

U-Haul Moving and Storage Company of Manchester, will sell household and personal items, contained in the following storage rooms due to unpaid storage fees on Tuesday, January 4th, 2022..

CLAUDETTE DAVIS 1510
JOHN TOCKEN 1710
Tim Pelletier 1211
Yvette Gordon 1809
Jeffery Kelly 1927
Josephine Joiner 1736
steven diaz 1911
Janet Echevarria 1921
Juan Vazquez 1730
Valentina Mendez 1403
Christian Rodriguez 1402
Aubrey Duerr 1609
Everal Spyke jr 3183
brenden russell 1014
Angel Lugo 1813
ALBA CARRERO-GARAY 3100
Jessica Farland 1006
kunj patel 1920
Helen Mocko 1928
Samantha Henderson 1002
Aubrey Duerr 1940
GARY PHIPPS 3023
PANAYIOTA GIOTSAS C/O NOVARTIS PHARM 1906
Joshua August Collins 3018
Benjamin Simmons 3120
JANE KERIVAN 1732
Kerri Salciccioli 1423
Jasmine Santiago 1723
zack smith 1735
alanna evans 1412
MIKE BROWN 1803
JOHN TOCKEN 1917
Megan Marchesseault 1016
MIKE BROWN 1513
Tiffany Cotto 1739
JOHN TOCKEN 1717
Troy Hayes 1519
Robert Belcher 1311
Adam Abrams 3189
LYNETTE MALDONADO 3071

Contents to be sold on the premises of 432 Oakland Street, Manchester, CT 06042 on Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 on Storageauctions.com and close out at 9:00AM.
Purchases to be paid for at the time of purchase, a $100.00 deposit by debit or credit card ONLY, will be needed on EACH room purchased. U-HAUL reserves the right to bid or purchase any lot or space. Auction service provided by www.storageauctions.com
Absolutely NO U-Haul Storage customers, or their family or friends on their behalf, whose units are listed in auction, may participate in any auction proceedings. You MUST contact Marketing Company Storage Manager, Joy Pace, for an appointment to purchase any units won online in auction. All persons will be turned away from the location without an appointment. Contact Joy Pace with any questions or concerns at Joy_Pace@uhaul.com
12/20/21, 12/21/21 7108676

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Purchasing Services Office, invites qualified organizations or individuals to submit proposals for the following program services:

RFP #4222
JUVENILE COMPETENCE TO STAND TRIAL STATEWIDE

Request for Proposal documents outlining procedures for submittal of proposals will be available online at
www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSAL IS:

BEFORE 2:30 PM. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

VENDORS CURRENTLY REGISTERED UNDER THE STATE'S SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE PROGRAM ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

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12/21/21 7111118

NOTICE

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50p (a), the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) announces that, on December 16, 2021, the Council issued Findings of Fact, an Opinion, and a Decision and Order approving an application from Arx Wireless Infrastructure, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 43 Osgood Avenue, New Britain, Connecticut. This application record is available for public inspection in the Council's office, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut.
12/21/21 7112210

Public Notice

In accordance with City of Hartford Municipal Code Section 29-16, the Hartford Police Department is in possession of unclaimed found property. If you have lost property in the City of Hartford, contact the HPD Property Room at 860 757-4180 weekdays 7:A.M to 2:30 PM. Please provide a detailed description of the property, the circumstances of its loss, and proof of ownership.
Positive identification is required before property will be released. Found Property is held for six months after being turned in.
Tues 10/12-12/28/21 7057211

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Public Sale of Mobile Home: 8 Upper Boulder Trail, Killingworth, CT. A 1973 Vindale 12 x 68 mobile home. Pursuant to C.G.S. 21-80(e)(1) Sale will extinguish all previous ownership and lien rights. Further information can be obtained by calling 860-853-6001. Auction will take place at 8 Upper Boulder Trail, Killingworth, CT on December 28, 2021 at 11am.
12/21-23/21 7112296

Car Reviews
Saturdays in
MOTORING

Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **JAMES G DOREY, 2 MEISSNER WAY, CLARK, NJ 07066-2219.** Have filed an application placarded **12/13/2021** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **GROCERY BEER PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **590 WINDSOR AVE WINDSOR, CT 06095-4046**. The business will be owned by PRRC, INC.. Entertainment will consist of: Objections must be filed by: 1-24-2022.

12/13/2021
JAMES G DOREY
12/14, 12/21/2021 7104157

LIQUOR PERMIT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **MUKHTAR AHMED, 72 STONE HILL DR, ROCKY HILL, CT 06067-4257.** Have filed an application placarded **12/15/2021** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **GROCERY BEER PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **198 FARMINGTON AVE HARTFORD CT 06105-3602**. The business will be owned by MSD SUPERMARKET LLC. Objections must be filed by: 01-26-2022.

12/15/2021
MUKHTAR AHMED
12/21/21 & 12/28/21 7111873

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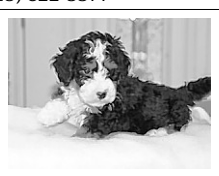

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MINI LONGHAIR DACHSHUND PUPPY male, rare chocolate/cream coloring, ready in January. Breeder is Vet Tech. $2,500. (302)229-0112.

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon
Donald P. La Salle
Berlin
Judith L. Johnson
Bristol
Donald P. La Salle
Luisa Macaro
Canton
John L. Downey
East Hartford
Alan D. Beaulieu
Farmington
Luisa Macaro
Glastonbury
Lillian J. Jones
Hartford
Alan D. Beaulieu
Marion M. Bouthet
Karen Gilgallon
Gwenn C. Mahon
Middletown
Patricia C. Dirisio
Luigi Furno
New Britain
Gloria Christensen
Bernard Kozlowski
Newington
Marion M. Bouthet
Judith L. Johnson
Other Towns in CT
Patricia C. Dirisio
Anthony N. Traggis
Out of State
Lillian J. Jones
Rocky Hill
Gloria Christensen
Patricia Ouellette
South Windsor
Herbert B. Fishman
Southington
Karen Gilgallon
Ronald F. Tooley
West Hartford
Herbert B. Fishman
Michael A. Freilich
Windsor
John L. Downey
OUT OF STATE
Lillian J. Jones
Mashpee, MA

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Gilgallon, Karen

CHESHIRE - Karen (Zembko) Gilgallon, beloved wife of Joseph Gilgallon Jr., passed away on December 17, 2021 at CT Hospice, surrounded by her loved ones, after a courageous battle with cancer.
Besides her husband of 29+ years, she is survived by her children, Ryan Gilgallon, Jaclyn Gilgallon, and Joseph Gilgallon III; sister-in-law Janice Harris; her brother, John J. Zembko III and his wife, Jan; sister Nancy Kapplan, and her husband, Barry, and many nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews, cousins, and extended family, and many friends.
Arrangements – Visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M., at the Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Cheshire 615 South Main Street. Funeral services and burial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Friends of Feral Cheshire Cats @P.O. Box 945 Cheshire, Ct 06410, or a charity of your choice. For full obituary, please visit www.fordfh.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Christensen, Gloria

Gloria J. Christensen passed away on December 16, 2021 at the age of 93 after a long illness. She was the daughter Axel Christensen and Evelyn (Swanson) Christensen.
Gloria was born in New Britain and resided in Rocky Hill most her life. She graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1946. After graduation, she attended Central Connecticut State College and University of Harford. Gloria worked for 33 years for the State of Connecticut at the Comptroller's office, the Insurance Department and the Department on Aging.
She leaves her brother, Roy Christensen of Saybrook ; her sister, Judy Christensen of New Haven; nieces, Stacy Veley and Sharyn Von Ogen; a nephew, Todd Christensen; two grand nephews, Tate and Jayson Veley, a swell as her housemate for many years Mary Ann Bilodeau. Gloria was predeceased by a brother, Earl Christensen.
A memorial service will be held at a later date. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to First Lutheran Church 77 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051. Carlson Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. To leave a memory or note of sympathy please visit www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

CARLSON FUNERAL HOME

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Kozlowski, Bernard

Bernard Kozlowski, 84, of New Britain, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 16, 2021. He was the beloved husband of Stanislawa (Kirej) Kozlowski for 53 years. Born in Poland, son of the late Kazimierz and Monika (Radziwon) Kozlowski, he immigrated to New Britain in 1969. Bernard was a member of the Newington Senior Center and the Haller Post in New Britain. He was employed as a machinist for many years prior to his retirement. He was an avid soccer and hockey fan and enjoyed woodworking. His bookshelves at home were lined with the Polish books he loved to read. Along with his wife, he leaves his two children, Mark Kozlowski and his girlfriend Tina Guiel, Eva Robar and her husband Raymond, all of Windsor, and his two grandsons, Jason and Jacob Robar. He also leaves his brother, Stanislaw Kozlowski and his wife Halina and his sister Helena Lazuk all of Poland. He was predeceased by his sister Jadwiga Kozlowska of Poland. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Thursday, December 23rd, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Burritt Hill, 332 Burritt St., New Britain, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, New Britain. He will be laid to rest in Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Britain. To share a memory, please visit us at www.duksa.net.

DUKSA

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OBITUARIES

Mahon, Gwenn Carter

Gwenn Carter Mahon, 60 , of Hartford, CT departed this life on Saturday, November 25, 2021. Gwenn was born on May 19, 1961 to the late Elisha and Emma Carter in Hartford, CT.
A celebration of life for Gwenn will take place on Thursday, December 23, 2021 at 11:00am with a calling hour from 10:00am – 11:00am at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Service (A Division of Howard K. Hill Funeral Services), 94 Granby Street, Bloomfield, CT 06002. To leave a message of comfort for the Mahon family please visit, www.hkhfuneralservices.com

HKH HOWARD K. HILL FUNERAL SERVICES Established 2004

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Downey, John L.

John L. Downey, 74, of North Canton, passed away December 15, 2021 at his home. Born in Hartford, son of the late Emil and Pauline (Gayda) Downey, he had lived in North Canton most of his life where he had been a builder for many years. He was co-owner of D&M Motors, owner of an excavation company, Aetna Construction, and owner of JLD Builders. He enjoyed Off Road Jeep Racing and competed in many races. He won several prestigious races, one of the most memorable was winning the Baja 1000 with his father. He was also a competitive pistol shooter. He loved spending time with his Dutch Shepherd, Buddy, who was his devoted best friend. He leaves his son Timothy and his wife Julia of Barkhamsted; two daughters Laura Moore and husband Jay of Winsted, and Michelle Downey of New Haven; also son John Downey, Jr. of Torrington, and daughter Tracy Downey-Freireich of OH; grandchildren Matilda Downey, Meadow and Orion Moore, and Taylor Sweeney; four siblings Robert Downey of North Canton, Carl Downey of Barkhamsted, Emil Downey of North Canton, and Robin Downey-Murphy of Canton. He was predeceased by his beloved son, Michael Downey. His family will celebrate his life with a visitation on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, from 5-7 PM at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center, 301 Country Club Road, Avon. Private burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Collinsville. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice that supports animals. For directions or condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com. "Ride hard, shoot straight, and speak the truth."

CARMON Community Funeral Homes

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Traggis, Anthony N.

Anthony N. Traggis, 80, of Lyme passed away on Dec.15 at Chesterfield's Health Care Center in Chester.
A first-generation Greek American, he was born in New London on Jan. 6, 1941, the son of Nicholas and Sophia (Genaros) Traggis.
He married Nancy Trimble on Oct. 16, 1998 when they eloped to Martha's Vineyard to the astonishment of friends and family.
Anthony loved fishing in Long Island Sound and Key West. He enjoyed chasing bonito in his fishing boat and driving his Morgan roadster sportscar. He was a longtime member of Shennecossett Yacht Club in Groton and the Coastal Conservation Association. He was a life-long New York Yankees fan. For many years, he and his brother Sandy made their own robust red wine under the Traggis Brothers label.
Anthony graduated from New London High School and Thames Valley Community College in Norwich where he studied mechanical engineering.
For nearly 50 years, he worked around the U.S. and the world on the construction of power plants while employed by Combustion Engineering, ABB and Alstom Power in Windsor.
Anthony is survived by his wife Nancy, his sister Katherine Booth and her husband James Robert Booth of Bozrah, his sister-in-law Carol (Phillips) Traggis of Rochester, N.Y., and several nieces and nephews.
He was predeceased by his sisters, Irene Stearns and Penelope Milon; his brother Sandy; and his first wife Elizabeth (Mulcahy) Traggis.
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a funeral service will not be held at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date.
Fulton-Theroux Funeral Home, Old Lyme is handling the arrangements.
Donations in his memory may be made to the Nature Conservancy at nature.org.

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Conroy, Robert

Robert Paul Conroy, of Essex, died peacefully on December 16, 2021 at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown surrounded by family following a brief illness. Robert was born on July 28, 1950 to Thomas and Ingeborg (Wischowski) Conroy in Ridgefield. He was a 1970 graduate of Ridgefield High School. In 1979 he married Barbara (Kearton) Conroy. He worked as a Construction Project Manager for many years before joining the Department of Homeland Security, where he traveled the country as a Logistics Coordinator providing supplies following natural disasters.
A self-proclaimed Beach Bum, Bob always enjoyed the beach. He took pride in his Lobster Boat the 'Irish Mist' and spent many weekends lobstering in Long Island Sound. He loved working for FEMA, where he and Barbara spent months in Louisiana during the relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina. Bob also spent many happy years with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, serving in the New Bedford MA Flotilla which fostered many dear friendships over the years. In retirement Bob enjoyed time with his brother Tom, his two daughters, and his grandchildren.
He was preceded in death by his parents and his loving wife Barbara. He is survived by his children, Lauren Holt and her husband Jason of Acton MA; Carolyn Nye and her husband Jesse of Essex; and his brothers, Michael and Thomas Conroy. He leaves his loving grandchildren, Cora and Brooke Holt and Alanna and Dylan Nye and several nieces and nephews.
Visitation will be held at the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home, 34 Main Street in Centerbrook on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 from 4:00PM to 5:30 PM followed by a Celebration of Life Service in the funeral home chapel. To share a memory of Robert or send a condolence to his family please visit www.rwwfh.com

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DiRisio, Patricia Corona

DIRISIO—Patricia Corona, 72, passed away on December 18, 2021. Beloved wife of Dr. Matthew J. DiRisio, who preceded her in death, Patty leaves her loving son, Matthew L. DiRisio and his wife, Leslie, granddaughters Olivia and Claire, and countless adoring nieces, nephews and cousins. Born April 20, 1949 in Middletown, Connecticut, Patty grew up in Middlefield, the daughter of Bernard and Patricia Corona. After graduating from Mercy High School, Patty attended Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, where she stayed and began her career as a music teacher at Rush Henrietta High School. There, she met her future husband, then-Principal Matthew DiRisio. They wed in Rochester in 1973, had their son, Matthew in 1976 and settled their family in Rochester and, later, Long Island, New York. Patty went on to teach in multiple school districts across New York state, leaving lasting legacies at each. She also earned advanced degrees in mental health counseling, and later transitioned to a new career as a licensed therapist with a successful private practice, which continued until the time of her death. Routinely described as beautiful, smart, perceptive, caring, happy and funny, Patty was above all else kind, empathetic and genuine – forging deep, life-long bonds wherever she went. Equally comfortable in rural upstate New York and Midtown Manhattan – in front of a piano and on a softball field – Patty was the bright light in every room she entered. Her love of life and positive spirit were contagious, and her quiet strength and unconditional love lifted all those around her to greater heights. In later life, Patty moved back to Clinton, Connecticut, where she continued her practice and began her most cherished role as a professional grandmother – playing, singing, reading, baking and laughing with her two granddaughters, in whom she instilled the priceless gifts of love, acceptance, and zeal for life. Patty is survived by her brother Marshall Corona (Irene) and brother-in-law Lawrence DiRisio (Leslie). She will be dearly missed and fondly remembered. A memorial service will be held at Swan Funeral Home in Clinton, CT on Saturday, January 15, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The American National Red Cross at https://www.redcross.org/donate/memorial-donations.html/.

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Jones, Lillian Jocelyn

Lillian "Jocelyn" Jones of Mashpee, MA, formerly of Glastonbury, CT, passed away peacefully at her home on December 18, 2021. She was the beloved wife of the late Thomas Kevin Jones with whom she shared 42 wonderful years of marriage.
Jocelyn was born January 18, 1942, to the late Alcide R. and Marie J. (Turcotte) Goulet. Following high school, she obtained her bachelor's degree in Nursing, and went on to earn a master's degree in Public Health while working full-time and raising two children. Jocelyn was a natural caregiver, and she greatly enjoyed her career as a registered nurse, and later went on to become a Nurse Practitioner. She worked in the nursing field, specializing in geriatrics for over 45 years.
When she wasn't working, Jocelyn loved to travel. She was an avid reader and could often be found curled up with a good book. She was a beach lover and so enjoyed the beautiful Cape Cod beaches that came to be her home. More than anything, Jocelyn enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, and she will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.
Jocelyn is survived by her son, David Jones, and his wife Tanya, of Alpharetta, GA; her daughter, Lauren Hitchen, and her husband David, of Wrentham, MA; her six beloved grandchildren, Nicholas, Anthony, Benjamin, Jenna, Alison, and Brian, as well as many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Thomas, her parents, Alcide and Marie Goulet, as well as her brothers, Ronald Goulet, and Norman Goulet.
Jocelyn will be laid to rest with her husband at Holy Cross Cemetery, in Glastonbury, CT. Funeral services will be held privately.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, PO Box #91891, Washington, D.C. 20090 or online at www.nationalmssociety.org/Donate.
For online guestbook and directions please visit www.chapmanfuneral.com.

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Ouellette, Patricia (Coleman)

Patricia (Coleman) Ouellette, 84, of Rocky Hill, beloved wife for 59 years to Robert Ouellette, passed away on Monday (December 20, 2021) at her home. She was born in Hartford, on August 22, 1937, a daughter of the late Michael Edward and Kathleen (Donlon) Coleman. Patricia started her career as a secretary at Whitlock Manufacturing. She opened a home daycare which she ran for over 10 years. In later years she worked as a receptionist at Elm Hill Nursing Home in Rocky Hill. She enjoyed traveling through Ireland and connecting to her Irish roots. Patricia was a devoted wife, a loving mother and a doting grandmother. Her greatest joy was spending time with her children and grandchildren. She leaves behind a son, Rob Ouellette Jr. of Wethersfield; two daughters, Kimberly Tsanotelis and her husband Jason of Milton, MA, Holly Hunt and her husband Peter of Milton, MA; three sisters, Maureen Tosti of Hartford, Kathleen Palaia and her husband Salvatore of Farmington, and Rosalind Proulx of Farmington; eight grandchildren, Christopher, Michael, Alexandra, and Nicholas Tsanotelis, Emily Brennan, Madison, Finn, and Nolan Hunt. She also leaves many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two brothers, John Francis "Jack" Coleman and Michael Edward Coleman as well as a brother-in-law Ralph Tosti.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday (December 23, 2021) 10 AM in St. Josephine Bakhita Parish at St. James Church, 767 Elm St. Rocky Hill. Burial will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. Family and friends are invited to call on Wednesday (December 22, 2021) from 6 to 8 PM at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St. Rocky Hill.

In lieu of flowers donations in Patricia's memory may be made to the St. Josephine Bakhita Parish (St. James Church Campus) 767 Elm St. Rocky Hill, CT. 06067

Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories, or photo tributes at www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com.

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OBITUARIES

Beaulieu, Alan D

Alan Dennis Beaulieu passed away peacefully at home in the early hours of Monday, December 13, 2021 after a brief illness. He was the fiancé of Louise G. French, of Newington, CT.

Born in Hartford, CT at St. Francis Hospital in 1950, he was the son of the late Alfred J. Beaulieu and Ellen (Donoghue) Beaulieu, an operating room technician at that hospital.

He received his elementary education at St Joseph Cathedral school in Hartford, CT. In his early teens, he was one of the few male Candy Stripers at St Francis hospital, which peaked his interest in medicine. He went on to George J. Penney High School in East Hartford, CT where he excelled in athletics - on the swim team, the track team and especially as the co-captain of the basketball team, achieving the highest game point average. According to a classmate, he remembers Alan "driving to the top of the key setting up for his signature shot – a jumper that goes in so smoothly it gets nothing but net". Alan received a basketball scholarship to attend Becker Junior College in MA, and earned an Associate's Degree in a medically-related field.

After college, he spent 20 years as an Operating Room technician, first in the Navy and then after his Naval discharge. Later, he was employed by Lockheed Martin as a radiographer for 32 years.

Alan was a lifelong sports fan, especially of baseball and hockey. He was a passionate Boston Red Sox, Boston Bruins fan, and was a 2-seat season ticket holder to the Jacksonville Icemen minor league hockey team, where he enjoyed sharing the sport with his oldest grandson Isaac.

He was interested in nearly all kinds of music, and could name songs, artists and albums easily. Alan loved going to concerts with friends, including the Dierks Bentley concert in Brunswick, GA, the Blues Festival, and many concerts on the river.

Besides his beloved fiancée Louise, he leaves to mourn him his sons Bryce of Kingsland, GA and Collin of South Boston, VA; Bryce's partner Brittany and their three sons Isaac, Elijah and Liam; Alan's brother Bernard and wife Donna, his dear friends Ed and Kathy Burke, Ed and Sally Kees, and Andy Ward; his long-time neighbor Les Jamison; his dear cousin Elaine Kane and many other relatives and classmates. He will be very much missed by so many people who knew him as a smart, loving, honest and generous-hearted friend, with a wonderful sense of humor.

Many thanks to the Hospice of the Golden Isles for their assistance and care in the last week of his life.

A mass celebrating his life will be held on January 8, 2022, at 11:00am at St. Joseph's Cathedral, on Farmington Ave in Hartford, CT, and another mass celebrating his life will be held the following week on January 15, 2022, at 11:00am at Our Lady Star of the Sea, on Dillingham St E. in St Mary's, GA, with a luncheon to follow that mass at the Riverside Café in St Mary's.

According to his wishes, Alan was cremated, and his ashes will be presented to his fiancée for privately scattering in the ocean.

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Johnson, Judith L.

Judith Elaine (Lauritzen) Johnson, 80, joined God on December 15, 2021 surrounded by loved ones. Daughter of the late Helen and Edward Lauritzen, Judy was born April 2, 1941. She grew up in West Hartford graduating from Conard High School in 1959. During high school, Judy was a baton twirler and was very involved in her church youth group. Judy attended radiology school at Hartford Hospital, worked as an x-ray technician for 45years and was the first x-ray tech at Orthopedic Associates of Hartford. Judy also spent time selling Home Decor and as a secretary at Newington High School. Judy met her husband, Roland, in the 3rd grade at Emanuel Lutheran Church. They dated and eventually were married in 1963 living in CT then NJ before settling in Newington in 1971 to raise their two children. Judy volunteered extensively with her kid's school and sports activities, but devoted most of her time to Emanuel Lutheran Church where she was part of the church council and craft group. For many years, she led the church youth group at meetings, trips, national gatherings, and Hammonasset campouts. Lastly, she established her pride and joy, the Friday Night Program which flourished under her leadership. For over 30 years, Judy opened the Emanuel gym doors to the neighborhood youth providing a safe opportunity to play games, play basketball, and just hang out for the night. Through the program, several youth benefited from scholar-ships to further their education. In her spare time, Judy enjoyed reading, crafting, doing puzzles, and attending her grandchildren's sporting and performing arts events. Judy was a very special lady. To paraphrase her granddaughter, Judy was the strongest, badass woman we knew. She fought a multitude of battles throughout her life and now it is her time to be at peace. She would do anything for her family and the people she cared for. Judy found the good in everyone and left a lasting impact on each and every person that was blessed to meet her. God has her now; she is safe and can now rest easy. She was indeed an angel on earth. Judy was predeceased by her sisters Nancy McCormack and Diane Roule. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Roland Johnson, of Newington, her daughter Jennifer and husband Joe of Berlin and her son Michael and wife Jennifer Win-Johnson of Newington. Known as Nai Nai, she will be missed by her grandchildren Cooper, Gunnar, Ryan, Maya, Reagan, and Ava as well as her grand pets Phineas, Bronny, and Bear. She also leaves a brother, Robert Lauritzen, and his wife Grace of Beverly Hills, FL, sister-in-law Carol Dennler of West Hartford, cousins, many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grand nephews, and many close friends. Family and friends may call on Tuesday December 21, 2021, at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Judith's funeral service will be held on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at 10:00 am DIRECTLY at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford, 311 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT, (parking available in the state lot at Oak St.). She will be lovingly laid to rest in West Meadow Cemetery, Newington. Donations may be made to Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106. To share a memory or condolence with Judith's family, please visit us at www.duksa.net

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Fishman, Herbert B

On December 19, 2021, Herbert B. Fishman, 93, passed away after a valiant 17-year battle with Parkinson's disease. Herb was born on July 30, 1928, in Hartford, CT. He lived in West Hartford, attended Hall High, and earned two degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and a Master Degree of Engineer of Metallurgy.

Herb worked at Electric Boat in New London, CT, where he was a welding inspector on the USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine. He then joined his father, William, and brother, Morton, at Fishman & Sons of Hartford which moved to South Windsor in 1958. Herb started as an estimator and rose to manager and then president of the company. In 1979, he established HB Fishman & Co., Inc., and was well known on the East Coast as an expert in all types of roofing. He designed the architectural restoration work of many of the roofs at Yale University and installed the 47-acre roof of the former JCPenney distribution center in Manchester. Committed to his work, Herb continued running HB Fishman until Parkinson's made it impossible for him to go to the office any longer at 89 years old. Fishman has authored several articles that have been published in construction and roofing journals. Throughout his work-life, Herb belonged to several professional organizations, including ASTM International and the National Roofing Contractors Association.

In 1958, Herb met his wife of 63 years, Ruth (Tutti) Lichtenstern, on a Nantucket, MA, beach. He proposed to her while driving through Smugglers' Notch in Stowe, VT, and within the year, they were married. Herb was a true Renaissance man: he grew legendary tomatoes; won dozens of awards for his orchids; loved swimming, sailing, waterskiing, and snow skiing; and could yodel like a Swiss goatherd. He was also a sculptor who, together with his brother Morton, built the metal Liberty Tree for the New England Pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair. Herb Fishman designed and fabricated numerous sculptures, which grace the Emanuel, Beth El, former Tikvoh Chadoshoh, and former Teferes Israel synagogues, as well as the Renbrook School, the Gengras Center, and other public venues throughout Connecticut. Herb Fishman was also a writer of poetry, spending many hours composing witty rhymes after Parkinson's limited his mobility. Always the engineer, Herb would modify almost anything with the hope of improving its functionality, accessibility, or taste. As a beloved father, uncle, and grandfather, Herb was generous and sensitive and full of sage advice for his family.

Herb Fishman was predeceased by his parents, Rose (née Rosenthal) and William Fishman, and his four siblings: Morris Marshall, Helen, Sylvia (Wernick), and Morton. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Ruth; his sons, Peter (Lisa) and Toni (Yukiko) of Farmington; and his daughter K. Heidi (David) of Norwich, VT; as well as seven grandchildren: Garrett, Ari, Madeleine, Joshua, Glenn, Emily, and Ethan.

Herb's family would like to thank all his caregivers who over the last few years helped him with everything from personal care to poetry transcription to gardening. Most especially, we thank Deb Spearot for her dedication to tending Herb's vast orchid collection when he was no longer able to do so himself.

There will be a graveside ceremony Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 1:30 pm at the Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery Avon, 27 Jackson Street, Avon, CT. Masks required. Zoom link available for family and friends. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial gift to the Parkinson's Foundation (https://www.parkinson.org/), Congregation Beth Israel (701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119) or the Ruth and Herbert Fishman '53 Scholarship at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (https://giving.rpi.edu).

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Bouthet, Marion M (Mallery)

Marion Mallery Bouthet of Newington, Connecticut, born on October 7, 1940 in Wilkes Barre, PA, born to the late Dorothy Mallery Valenti, passed away at age 81, on December 11, 2021 at UCONN Health Center, Farmington, CT. Marion graduated from Windsor High School in 1959. She worked at Aetna for more than 30 years where she was on the board of the Aetna Women's and 39ers clubs before retiring in 1998. Marion was the loving wife of the late George E. Bouthet, Sr. for 58 happy years. She was predeceased by her stepfather and stepmother, Joseph and Marion Valenti; brother, Robert Mallery; and sister, Jo-Ann Capalbo. She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Bouthet; sons, George E. Bouthet Jr. and Robert Bouthet; sister Rosalie Polo and her husband John; brother-in-law, Joseph L. G. Bouthet and his wife Solange; grandchildren, Joseph Smith and his wife Xiomara, Stephanie Smith, Matthew Bouthet and his fiancée Meghan Huynh, Andrew Bouthet and his girlfriend Alexa Minor, and Cassady Bouthet; great grandchildren, Gavin, Leonora, and Olivia; nieces Lisa Coyne-Newhall and her husband Dan, Lori Freeman and her husband Dan, nephew Marc Bouthet and his wife Terri; cousins Patricia Ibarra and Ruth Feirstein along with many grand nieces and nephews. Special friends Vikki, Teresa, Mike and Diane, Laura, Leslie and many other friends, also survive her. She also leaves behind two needy cats, Lucky and Charm, who were the loves of her life.

Following her retirement, Marion became a Eucharistic Minister serving St. Luke's Church and Hartford Hospital. In her duties to the church she often visited with residents at the Ellis Manor nursing home in the south end of Hartford. She also volunteered at the front desk of Hartford Hospital where she greeted visitors, provided directions to different areas of the facility and assisted callers in connecting to patients and doctors. Marion also had a passion for baking where she would create specialty cakes for all occasions. She loved gardening and cared for many varieties of plants around her house. Some of her favorite past times was her trips to the casino with her daughter, Deb, and her conversations with her second daughter, Lori. Most of all Marion loved to host gatherings, opening her house to family and friends and whomever her family brought home.

Those who wish may donate in Marion's name to Newington Food Bank. The family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff at UCONN John Dempsey Hospital. Their care and support will forever be remembered. Family and friends can pay their respects at a celebration of Marion's life on Saturday, January 15 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., held at The Resort 89 Raynel Road, Newington, Connecticut, 06111.

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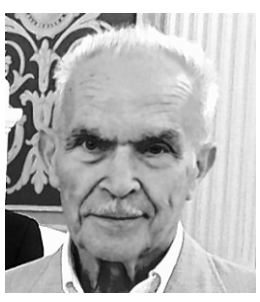
Furno, Luigi



Luigi Furno, age 89, of Middletown passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at Autumn Lakes Healthcare in Cromwell. He was the beloved husband of Maria Angelina Rotondi Furno. Luigi was born in Benevento, Italy on July 24, 1932 to the late Fiorentino and Angelina Furno. He was a retired machinist from North and Judd in Middletown, CT. Luigi was a true family man. He loved making wine from his own grapes which he brought from Italy and grew in his backyard, along with his vegetable garden. He was a fixture in Middletown and could often be seen walking down Main Street to his daily shopping and errands. Middletown has lost a good friend and neighbor. Besides his wife of 68 years, he leaves behind his two children, Vincent (Trudy) Furno of Florida and Maria Furno-Appell of Middletown. He also is survived by his five grandchildren, Karl (Stephanie) Furno of Florida, Kurt (Erica) Furno of Alabama, Spencer, Emily and Elisabeth Appell of Middletown, CT and one great grandson, William Furno. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Mary of Czestochowa Catholic Church, 79 S. Main Street, Middletown Wednesday December 22, at 9am. Interment to follow at Calvary Cemetery in Middletown. To leave an online condolence or tribute, please visit www.keenanfuneralhome.com.

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Freilich, Michael Aaron

It is with profound sadness that we announce that Michael Aaron Freilich of Oneonta, NY passed away in his sleep from natural causes this past Friday.

Michael was born in Louisville, KY in 1991, but was raised in West Hartford, CT attending Hebrew Academy and Hebrew High School of New England. Michael was always a great big brother, a terrific friend and a fine athlete. He studied in Israel during a gap year prior to beginning UCONN as a voice major. Michael transferred to Eastern Connecticut State University where he began his men's basketball coaching experience as the team manager and coaching AAU travel basketball for the East Hartford "Roughriders." After graduating from Eastern, he received his Masters' degree and served as graduate assistant/assistant coach at LaGrange College in Georgia prior to being recruited as assistant coach at SUNY Oneonta and most recently Hartwick College men's basketball programs. In his brief career, Michael helped many young men to find their way to a college education through participation in sports. He recruited talented and high character players and then provided them with mentoring, coaching, friendship and insisted on correcting their college papers. In Michael's spare time, he worked as a property manager and had his own house renovation business, "Freilich's Property Services". Humor and fun were always a big part of Michael's life.

All through his final three college and during his coaching years, Michael met, courted and married the love of his life Megan Harris originally from Clinton, CT. They were married this past July and were residing in Oneonta. Michael also leaves behind his loving parents, Sharon and Martin, his younger brother (and very close pal) Eli, his grandmother Clairelila Freilich, Megan's parents Lisa and George Harris, Megan's sister and brother-in-law Emily and Kevin Smith and nieces Ella and Ryann. Michael also leaves behind many additional grieving family members and close friends throughout the US and Israel.

The funeral was held on Monday, December 20 at 11 AM at Beth David Synagogue in West Hartford with interment at Beth David cemetery in Wethersfield. Calling hours will be at Beth David on Tuesday and Wednesday at the completion of the evening service between approximately 4:30 and 5:30 PM. Please make any donation in Michael's name to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, New England Jewish Academy (NEJA) or Beth David Synagogue.

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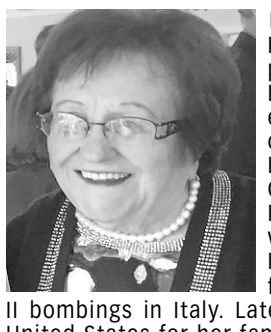
Macaro, Luisa Marrocco



Luisa Macaro, 91, of Farmington, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, December 19, 2021 surrounded by her family. She was born on March 25, 1930 in Lenola Italy, daughter of the late Giuseppe and Maria (Lauretti) Marrocco. Luisa was the loving wife of the late Costantino Macaro. Luisa and some of her family survived the World War II bombings in Italy. Later in 1971, she moved to the United States for her family to have a better life. Luisa was an active member of St. Patrick Church in Farmington and volunteered her culinary skills often at New Horizons Village and at the Farmington Senior Center. She was an excellent cook and specifically was known for her famous pasta and meatballs. Over all Luisa was committed to her family and was proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Luisa is survived by her sons Fernando "Fred" Macaro and his wife Nancy, Dionigi "Dennis" Macaro and his wife Gemma, Giuseppe "Joe" Macaro and his wife Martene; daughter Maria Macaro; grandchildren Gabriella, Fernando, Matthew, Adrianna, Isabella, Marissa, Kevin, Jonathan; nine great-grandchildren; brother Benito Marrocco and several nieces and nephews. Besides her parents and husband, Luisa is predeceased by her grandson Jared Macaro and many siblings. A funeral will be held directly at St. Matthew Church, 120 Church Ave., Bristol for an 11Am Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery, Farmington. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Farmington Senior Center, https://www.farmington-ct.org/. To leave an online message of condolence, share a memory or a photo, please visit Luisa's tribute page at www.OBrien-FuneralHome.com

O'Brien FUNERAL HOME

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Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

OBITUARIES

La Salle, Donald P

Dr. Donald P. La Salle of Bristol, CT passed away peacefully on December 8, 2021. Don was an outstanding educator and a visionary who accomplished much in education and science as the Founder, Director and President of the Talcott Mountain Science Center in Avon, CT.

Don was born on March 14th, 1933 to his parents Rocco and Tessie (Chiliano) Lasala in Corona, NY. Don graduated from Central Connecticut State Teachers College, now CCSU, with a Bachelor of Science degree, and later graduated with a Master of Education degree. After graduation Don joined the U.S. Navy where he attained the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. In 1957 he married Nancy Haniewski of New Britain, CT. After discharge from the Navy in 1961, Don and Nancy settled in Bristol, CT and had 3 children: Chris of New Fairfield, CT, Greg of Los Angeles, CA, and Donna (Coventry) of Darien, CT.

In 1967, Don founded the Talcott Mountain Science Center which is widely recognized for its excellence and uniqueness in education worldwide. In 1977 Don graduated from the UConn with a Doctorate for his breakthrough research in Chronobiology. He loved basketball and excelled as a star athlete in high school and college.

Besides the Academy, Don's family was his pride and joy. He is survived by his three children and much-adored grandchildren, Alexis LaSalle of Boston, MA and Owen Coventry of Darien, CT. He is also survived by his brother-in-law and best friend Mario Leli of Whitestone, NY, and an extended family of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Don was predeceased by his loving wife, Nancy, his parents Rocco and Tessi, his sisters Francine Pizzimenti, Helen La Salle, Angela Becker, Grace Russo, and Mildred Leli, and brothers Anthony La Salle and Dominick La Salle.

A celebration of Don's life will be held at Science Center in the summer of 2022. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dr. Donald and Nancy La Salle Scholarship Fund using the following link: https://www.tmsc.org/LaSalleScholarshipFund

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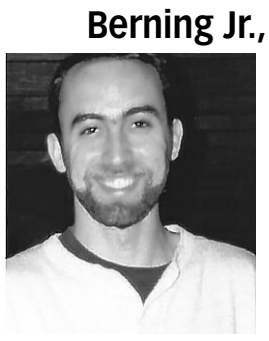
Berning Jr., James Edward



Our beloved son, brother and friend passed away suddenly in Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, on October 30, 2021. He had become very ill while working on the pipeline in Wyoming, and died of cancer at Regional West Medical Center after only two weeks there. He was born in Hartford CT on July 8, 1973 to James E. Berning Sr. and Nancy Staib Berning. He leaves his mother, his two children, Alexander K. Berning and James E. Berning III, His sister Katherine L. Berning-Alfred and her husband Jason Alfred, their children Ryan J. and Olivia B. Alfred; his brother Christopher T. Berning and his children Kayla E., Marisa L., and Warren E. He also leaves Aunt Barbara Melville, Uncle Lester Staib, Uncle Thomas Bennett and Cathy Kelemen Bennett, Uncle Ted Bennett, and Uncle Terrence Bennett. He was predeceased by James E. Berning Sr., Aunt Marianne Bennett Rapson, and Aunt Michaele Bennett Landenberger.

He graduated from Northwestern Regional 7 in 1991, but had no strong desire for higher education, and headed to Boston after graduation. There he worked for Staples, Radio 104.1 WBCN, and Boston Sports Club. He found his true calling after getting his CDL (commercial drivers license) at New England Tractor Trailer Training School. He loved driving the big rigs, and eventually joined Teamsters Local 677 out of Waterbury CT, pursuing jobs on the pipeline. He made many friends and worked in many states, including Texas, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Wyoming.

He loved his children deeply and the time that he was able to spend with them. He loved riding back roads on his motorcycle, having a beer with friends, and listening to music, especially the music of Blackberry Smoke. He loved his little rescue dog and named her Diesel.

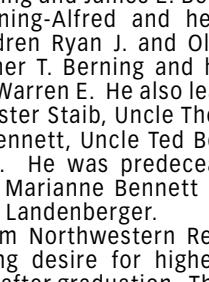
Deepest thanks go to Stephanie McMaster, his first wife and the mother of his children, for driving them twelve straight hours from El Paso to the hospital in Nebraska so that they could be with him those last precious days. Our thanks to Dwight Grayson, his boss on the pipeline in Wyoming, for coming to the hospital to console all and help get essential paperwork done. To the staff on Surgical Unit – words cannot express our gratitude for the loving care you gave to Jim and all his family at such a difficult time. Special thanks to his care coordinator Jina for masterminding his care – we love you.

A memorial will be held in March to allow his friends time to plan travel; time and place of service to be decided. Instead of flowers, Jim would appreciate a donation in his memory to Dogstar Rescue in Bloomfield CT. Jim is deeply missed by his family and dear friends – we know he didn't want a religious service or any fuss, but we will gather and celebrate the time we were able to spend together.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
GEORGE I. STEWART

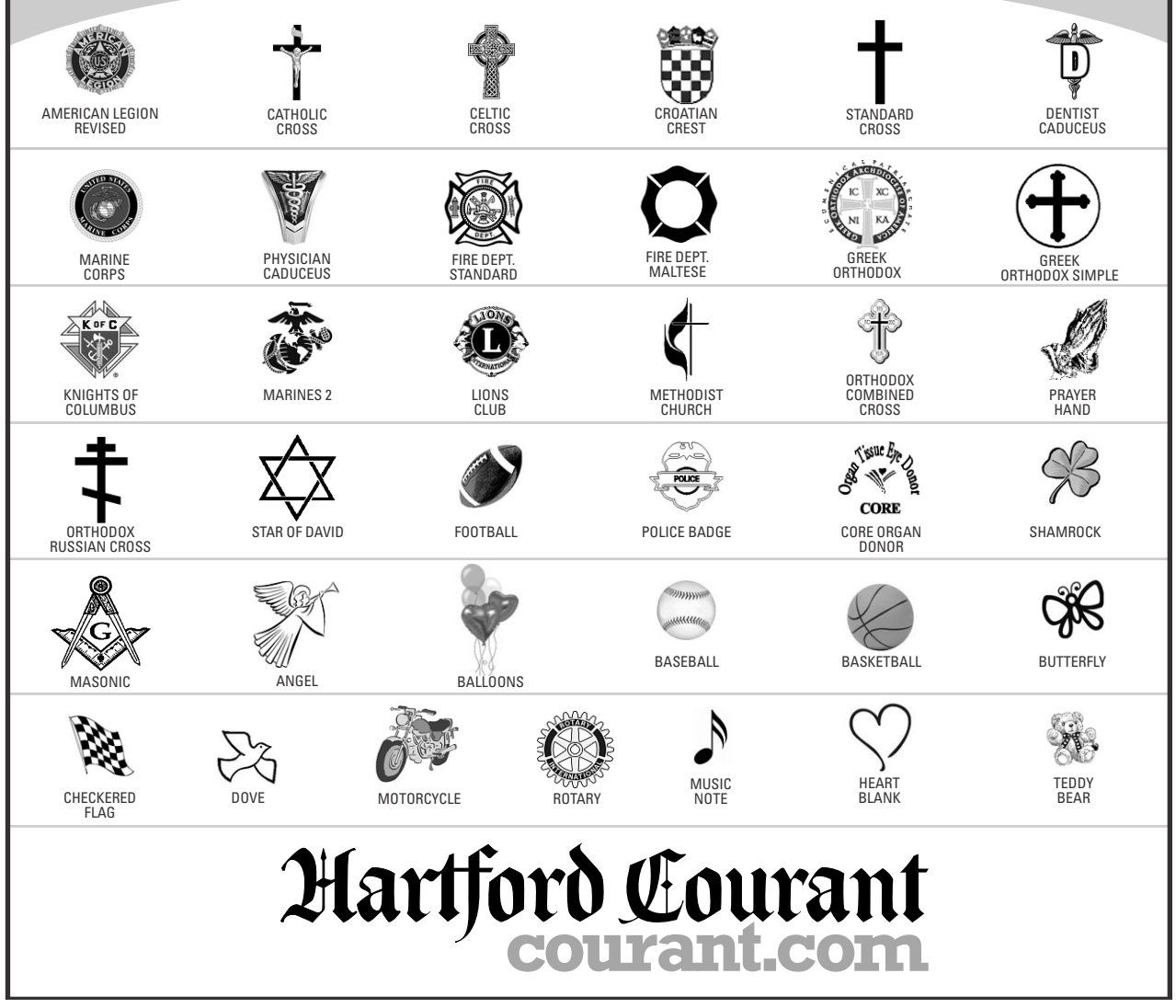


"Poppie"
You are loved and missed.
Linda & Jim

Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.

Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.

Ask us for our listing of emblems and how we can help you personalize your loved one's obituary.



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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Some churches go online for Christmas

Services switch from in-person as COVID-19 cases spike

By Daniela Altimari
Hartford Courant

AME Zion Church in Hartford had planned to resume in-person worship services in January but a new coronavirus surge driven by the omicron variant has led leaders to reassess that timetable.

"We're going to think about that a little bit more because of the uptick in cases," said the Rev. Robyn Anderson. "A lot of people are still dying."

With COVID-19 cases spiking as Christmas approaches, several houses of worship are shifting their holiday worship schedules online. On Monday, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York announced it was canceling all in-person services.

Anderson is the executive director of the Ministerial Health Fellowship, a group of Black faith leaders who run vaccination clinics and COVID-19 testing sites. She said about half of the group's clergy have moved their Christmas services online.

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 in Connecticut have risen by 14% over the past three days. The state, like others in the Northeast, has seen cases swell, a surge that began in the fall and has been complicated by the arrival of the highly contagious omicron variant.

Some denominations are proceeding with plans for in-person holiday services, while instituting a number of safety precautions such as requiring attendees to preregister, conducting tempera-

Turn to Churches, Page 2

The Pearl Street firehouse is expected to be converted into market-rate apartments with a restaurant on the ground floor. **BRAD HORRIGAN/ HARTFORD COURANT**

Want to live in a FIREHOUSE?

City of Hartford continues to convert old buildings downtown into apartments

The former municipal building at 521-529 Main St. across from city hall is slated to be converted to apartments. Longtime tenants such as the Cornerstone Deli will remain.
KENNETH R. GOSSELIN / HARTFORD COURANT

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Two historic properties in downtown Hartford — one, a century-old firehouse and both within a short walk of Bushnell Park — would likely be converted into apartments starting in late spring, with the projects completed by the end of 2023.

The city is negotiating a final sales agreement for the firehouse on Pearl Street and the former municipal building at 521-527 Main across from city hall with Wonder Works Construction Corp. of Brooklyn, New York, a longtime developer of apartment conversions in the downtown area.

The city council approved the sale of the two city-owned buildings earlier this month.

Turn to Apartments, Page 2

Farber Dulos search turns to park in New Canaan

Her SUV was found near site more than 2 years ago

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

State police are searching Waveny Park in New Canaan, the area near where the SUV of Jennifer Farber Dulos was found more than two years ago, in connection with the investigation into Dulos' homicide.

"The Connecticut State Police Major Crimes detectives and K-9s are in Waveny Park on a standard follow-up investigative effort out of an abundance of caution," said Brian Foley, a top aide to state police commissioner James Rovella.

The search is related to the Jennifer Farber Dulos homicide investigation, a state police spokesperson confirmed.

Police are "following up on previous investigative information pertaining to" the investigation, they said.

"This is being done out of an abundance of caution to explore every avenue related to the case," state police said. "These follow-ups are standard procedure as our detectives thoroughly investigate any and all leads."

Investigators are still searching for Farber Dulos after she went missing on May 24, 2019. Her estranged husband, Fotis Dulos, was charged with murder in connection with her disappearance and died by suicide in January 2020.

Dr. James Gill, the state's chief medical examiner, determined, based on evidence, including a large amount of her blood in her New Canaan home, that Farber Dulos likely suffered an injury that was "non-survivable without medical intervention." State police found no evidence that she was seen by a medical doctor following her disappearance. He has not issued a death certificate because the body has not been found.

Despite extensive searches at numerous locations across the state — including days spent sifting through garbage at the trash-to-energy plant in Hartford — no trace of her body has been found.

Police issued a similar statement in January when they brought an excavator to search Dulos' former home at 80 Mountain Spring Road in Farmington.

"Our main goal is to work toward giving the family of Jennifer Dulos some sense of closure, which is why we're here continuing to investigate ... the disappearance," Trooper Josue Dorelus, a state police spokesman, said during a news conference at the time. "Our main goal is again to provide that sense of closure to the family. ... This is still an active and ongoing investigation and as you are aware we're very limited in terms of what we can and cannot say."

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Connecticut regulators hit Eversource with $1.8 million fine

Agency says marketing materials violated state law

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Connecticut regulators, responding to complaints first raised by a Hartford Courant columnist, have fined Eversource Energy $1.8 million for failing to disclose whether marketing materials for gas connections were paid for by shareholders, ratepayers or both, a violation of state law.

Kevin Rennie, a columnist for the Courant, described Aug. 13 how Eversource urged residents in his South Windsor neighborhood to sign up for natural gas connections before an imminent street repaving. He said local officials told him no repaving was scheduled.

Rennie reported that an Eversource

Turn to Eversource, Page 2

State starts $1M winter tourism campaign

'The State I'm In' faces challenge from coronavirus

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

The Connecticut Office of Tourism has heard some of the things people say about the often-maligned nutmeg state. To set the record straight and provide a boost to Connecticut's tourism industry at a time when a new wave of the coronavirus is limiting travel, the state today unveiled a new million-dollar marketing campaign.

"The State I'm In" will run through the end of March, Gov. Ned Lamont announced, in hopes of bringing more tourists to Connecticut in the winter months, stimulating business at local restaurants, hotels, museums and other attractions.

In the first of two TV spots, a young man in a winter coat and scarf does a mellifluous, conversational rap about appreciating Connecticut.

"People always get at this place, that it's dull and gray," he raps, over images of restaurants, shopping districts, bars and fitness centers. "But I say if you're bored, then you're boring, and maybe you're ignoring what is worth exploring when you actually look for it.

"Igloo dining" is one of the attractions of Connecticut being promoted in the state office of tourism's new "The State I'm In" campaign. **CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF TOURISM**

"This destination has a great sensation because elation is not a location and adventure is all around us. See, I've learned the state I'm in has always been a place with space to find more, so don't ignore what's out there in Connecticut. Check out the state I'm in."

The multi-pronged marketing campaign includes both English and Spanish-language promotions, and also stresses cultural diversity and inclusivity found in the state.

The video features Pratt Street in Hartford, the "igloo dining" domes at the Dockside Brewery & Waterfront Biergarten, Backyard Adventure UTV Tours in Canaan, the downtown shopping district in Mystic, the BAR nightclub and pizza restaurant in

Turn to Tourism, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Churches

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ture checks and limiting capacity.

The Hartford Archdiocese has no plans to forgo in-person Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. "Essentially our guidance to our parishes remains that all local town [and] city mandates be observed as they relate to masking and distancing," said David Elliott, a spokesman for the archdiocese.

Gov. Ned Lamont has resisted reinstating the public health rules that led to church closures earlier in the pandemic. At a press briefing Monday, he urged churchgoers to make an effort to protect themselves and others while worshipping over the holidays.

"You can keep yourself safe," Lamont said. "If you're going to a church service, don't test after the service, test before the service. That way you now everybody around you will be safe."

And, he added, "it's probably a good idea for people of a certain age to wear a mask as well."

The archdiocese is encouraging its parishioners to wear masks, even in communities where it is not required, Elliott said. "We're asking everyone to use their best judgment," he said.

For the Catholic Church, that includes getting vaccinated. "We're a pro-life church and part of that is understanding that vaccines are a good thing," Elliott said. "They keep you healthy and protect those around you. The U.S. Conference of Bishops has been emphatically clear for the need for people to get their vaccines ... so we can get back to having not just that spiritual closeness but that physical closeness of having people back and filling those pews again."

A man sits in Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Soho, in London on Thursday. The UK recorded the highest number of confirmed new COVID-19 infections Wednesday since the pandemic began, and England's chief medical officer warned the situation is likely to get worse as the omicron variant drives a new wave of illness during the Christmas holidays. **ALBERTO PEZZALI/AP**

"It's a really important time to celebrate Christ's birthday. But it's been a long time since people have been able to gather together and it's had an effect."

— The Rev. Robyn Anderson, AME Zion Church in Hartford

Christmas services are typically among the most well-attended of the year. In December of 2020, vaccinations were not available to the general public and many churches held their services online.

Clergy leaders had hoped this year would be different.

"It's a really important time to celebrate Christ's birthday," Rev. Anderson said. "But it's been a long time since people have been able to gather together and it's had an effect."

The virus continues to extract a toll: Anderson said four members of her own family recently became ill and her unvaccinated nephew was hospitalized. "There's a blanket of sickness that continues to be over so many families," she said. "It's real. People are still getting COVID."

But fear of the new variant has led to more people coming to the Ministerial Health Fellowship vaccination clinic at Cross Street AME Zion Church in Middletown.

Lamont said people should feel comfortable worshipping in person, provided they take precautions against the virus.

"I'm not worried about church services by definition," Lamont said. "I'm worried about people not taking what we know works ... seriously."

Apartments

from Page 1

The firehouse, closed in 2020, is slated for a $9 million conversion to 42 market-rate rentals, including 36 studios that would start from $875 a month, and 6 one-bedroom units that would be from $1,350 a month.

Wonder Works has confirmed it has signed a letter of intent and is negotiating a lease with a restaurant that would occupy the ground level of the firehouse. But so far, the developer has declined to identify the tenant.

Diagonally across Bushnell Park, the former municipal building on Main Street — with longtime tenants such as the Cornerstone Deli which would remain — would be fitted out with 39 market-rate rentals — 28 studios and 11 one-bedroom apartments — in a $7.4 million redevelopment.

The studios would start at $950 a month and the one-bedrooms, at $1,200 a month.

For both buildings the rent includes a parking space, Wonder Works said Monday.

The conversion of 521-529 Main St., marked in this aerial view with a star, into apartments could include future apartment construction on a rear parking lot. **CITY OF HARTFORD**

Both the firehouse and the former municipal building, the latter built in 1926, have been targeted for redevelopment for several years. The conversions would take place at the same time.

Daniel Klaynberg of Wonder Works and the son of founder and chairman Joseph Klaynberg said Monday the Brooklyn company, which has developed 560 downtown apartments in the last decade, remain bullish on the city's prospects as it works to emerge from the pandemic.

"All of our buildings in Hartford are doing pretty well in terms of occupancy," Daniel Klaynberg said. "We've got 98% occupancy in all of our buildings. So, we're hoping that it is six months to absorb these units."

Those buildings include the Spectra properties, such as the converted Sonesta Hotel on Constitution Plaza and three buildings — two of them converted office buildings — near the corner of Trumbull and Pearl street in the heart of downtown Hartford.

The city has reached agreements with Wonder Works that call for combined loans of $4.9 million in city funds designated for economic development; tax breaks stretching out for a decade and deferral of paying the sale price for the two properties.

The purchase prices — $360,000 for the firehouse and $425,000 for 521-529 Main would not be paid until loans on the property are refinanced or the developer sells them. City officials say the arrangement will bring in developer financing for harder-to-convert properties and ultimately get the two building on the tax rolls.

The tax breaks involve payments to city coffers based on gross revenue, rather than assessed values. There would be no payments in the first three years and gradually rise to 7% by the tenth year after the buildings are ready for occupancy.

The agreement with the city also contemplates future apartment development on a parking lot behind 521-529 Main, bordering on Pulaski Circle and beyond it, Bushnell Park.

Wonder Works would lease the parking for $32,500 annually for five years, with an option to buy the land for $162,000.

Wonder Works has said it is possible to build up to 200 apartments on the site, and that could happen within five years.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Tourism

from Page 1

New Haven and Aerial Arts Fitness in Jewett City.

The man rapping in the video is Eddie Cruz Jr., a Hartford-based actor and Hartt School graduate who was born and raised in Newington. Castonquay says that those involved with the campaign are "all local agencies," from the advertising firm to the video producers to the social media specialists. The campaign's social media will also feature photos and testimonials from actual tourists. Those interested in adding their own words and images to the "State I'm In" social media campaign can do so using the hashtag #StateImInCT.

The second TV spot is still in pre-production.

Christine Castonguay, director of branding and marketing for the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development says the locations in the videos are meant to represent similar businesses around the state. During the campaign, hundreds of Connecticut businesses and attractions will be spotlighted.

Castonquay says that the seasons with the largest budget for tourism marketing are spring and summer, followed by fall. "In winter, we usually have $10,000 that we use for small buys. This is 10 times that."

The "State I'm In" campaign will run on TV and digital media and will not be in print or on radio, Castonquay says. The TV spots will be seen during such high-profile programs as the Super Bowl, the Academy Awards, NFL playoff games and the NCAA Big East Finals.

Local actor Eddie Cruz Jr. raps about "The State I'm In" in a new video, part of a winter tourism campaign just launched by the state of Connecticut. **CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF TOURISM**

The campaign's ads will also be found on social media, digital billboards and elsewhere.

The campaign hopes to stimulate tourism at a time when many of the industries served by tourism have been hit hard by the pandemic.

Nationally, Castonquay says, "'Vaccination rates are tied to whether people go out. Connecticut is leading in vaccinations." She notes that tourist destinations follow state COVID guidelines, and the many outdoor activities promoted in the campaign, including UTV tours and skiing, are safe options.

Tourism, Castonquay says, is a $15.5 billion industry in Connecticut. The "State I'm In" campaign, she says, "is about keeping Connecticut top of mind."

CTvisit.com, expected to received seven million hits online this year, is the main source for information on state tourism. Find attractions and information and see the "State I'm In" campaign at ctvisit.com/StateImInCT.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

Eversource

from Page 1

representative later said the marketing materials referencing repaving and a cash back offer deadline was sent in error and the utility apologized.

State Attorney General William Tong and the office of Consumer Counsel sought an investigation of Eversource's marketing of its gas expansion program to make sure it complies with state law.

Connecticut consumers "pay far too much for their energy already to be duped into decisions and investments without full facts and information," the attorney general said.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority said it believes that "little, if any, good faith efforts" by Eversource have been made to achieve compliance "aside from a complete halt to its marketing efforts in this area."

Regulators said Eversource understood its obligation under state law "because nowhere in the record does Eversource demonstrate any instances where it inquired about the meaning of the statute" with PURA.

Of 52 examples of advertisements provided by Eversource, 10 included the required advertising disclosure, showing that Eversource knew of its obligation, PURA said.

Spokeswoman Tricia Taskey Modifica said Eversource recently received the decision from PURA and is reviewing it.

"We share PURA's goal to provide helpful and accurate information to consumers," Taskey Modifica said. "We'll redouble our efforts to assure compliance with all disclaimer requirements on all future ads."

Eversource may request a hearing within 20 days. PURA's order becomes final If the utility does not seek a hearing.

PURA calculated the fine as $500 for each of the 3,594 people who received marketing materials that did not include the required disclosure. The money is to be paid to Operation Fuel Inc., which provides financial help to customers having trouble paying their gas bills.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT

West Hartford bans ATV use in all public places

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

WEST HARTFORD — Seeking to curb a public safety menace, the West Hartford town council has banned operation of all-terrain vehicles on streets, sidewalks and parks, warning that violators could see their machines seized and sold at auction.

The council adopted the ATV ban unanimously at a recent meeting, prompted in part by packs of off-road riders roaring through town streets this summer,

The ordinance says no one may operate an ATV or ride as a passenger on any land under the town's jurisdiction. The new rule allows police to seize and hold a violator's machine until "adequate arrangements are made by a responsible adult for it to be transported to an appropriate location." If such arrangements are not made within 72 hours, the seized ATV "shall be sold at public auction."

Like many large towns and cities around the Northeast, West Hartford has been hit with a wave of ATV and dirt bike riders on public streets. In early August, more than 200 riders rumbled through town followed by a smaller group ride in September. Residents complained of riders speeding, weaving in and out of traffic, blowing through red lights and jeering at pedestrians. Home and business owners also complain of extreme noise.

New Haven, East Hartford and New London are among other Connecticut communities that have adopted ordinances aimed at ending illegal riding.

Soon after the pandemic began, Hartford police seized about 30 ATVs and dirt bikes and crushed them at an auto parts yard. However, like police in other communities, they have trouble catching the drivers. Officers rarely pursue speeding ATVs due to the risks of a chase. Also, when dozens of riders are together in a pack, police have no way to follow them all when they split.

West Hartford Police Chief Vernon Riddick said the ordinance will give police "extra tools we can use." Riddick said police will rely on the public to report illegal riders and where they store their machines.

Police suspect some ATVs are kept in self-storage units, while others are in garages and sheds. The police department's anonymous tip line is 860 570-8969. People also can send information to whpdtips@westhartfordct.gov.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com.

Yale to make exams remote

University will mandate booster shots for return to campus after winter break

By Kaitlin McCallum
Hartford Courant

In advance of the winter break, Yale University is shifting all exams to remote and offering students the option of leaving campus early, according to a letter sent to students Saturday.

"While Yale has not experienced the same increase in COVID rates as some other universities, we know that many of you are concerned about remaining on campus during the finals period," says the letter from the school's deans. "Although the risk of transmission during in-person examinations is small, we want you to be able to go home now."

The campus is scheduled to close at noon Thursday.

Until then, dining halls will continue to serve grab-and-go meals and the gyms have been closed.

"We want to emphasize that you are not required to leave campus early, but we encourage you to do so if you wish," the letter says.

"Please continue to maintain your testing, masking, and social distancing practices."

The campus has not encountered a large spike as Connecticut numbers continue to rise. From Dec. 12 to 18, the campus had 164 positive cases, 30 of which were identified Saturday, the most recent day of testing.

Classes for the spring semester are scheduled to begin Jan. 18. Students are required to take a COVID test one to two days before returning to campus and test twice a week for the first two weeks back on campus.

They are also required to get a booster shot before they return to campus.

"We are hopeful that we will be able to begin the semester in person, but in light of the rapidly changing public health conditions, we ask you to plan for the possibility that some or all activities will take place remotely at the outset of the semester," the letter says.

Children and joggers enjoy the town green outside the First Congregational Church in Lebanon on July 20, 2016. A Connecticut appeals court ruled Friday that a local historical society cannot try to impose its conservation rules on a congregational church that dates to 1700 and is located on the celebrated Lebanon Town Green. **PAT EATON-ROBB/AP**

Court rejects group effort to regulate town green church

By Dave Collins
Associated Press

A Connecticut appeals court ruled Friday that a local historical society cannot try to impose its conservation rules on a congregational church that dates back to 1700 and is located on the celebrated Lebanon Town Green.

The ruling by the state Appellate Court is the latest chapter in years-long legal proceedings over who owns the mile-long green and how to shield it from development that would harm its historic character.

As a result of those proceedings, the Lebanon Historical Society has conservation authority over 95% of the green, meaning any construction and property improvements must adhere to its building rules and restrictions. But the First Congregational Church of Lebanon is on the 5% of the green the society does not control.

In a lawsuit filed in 2019, the historical society is seeking authority to regulate the remaining 5%, saying it needs to be protected like the rest of the green. The church argued that just because the society controls adjacent property doesn't mean it has legal standing to try to impose that authority on the property where the church buildings stand.

Three judges on the Appellate Court on Friday upheld a lower court ruling in favor of the church. They said the case has implications for property owners statewide.

"To hold otherwise would allow the holder of a conservation and preservation restriction on one property to interfere with a neighbor's use of its property because the holder of the restriction finds the neighbor's use in some way offensive," Judge William Bright Jr. wrote in the ruling. "There is simply no support in our statutes or common law for such a proposition."

The historical society intends to appeal the ruling to the state Supreme Court, said Leslie King, one of its lawyers.

"The Lebanon Historical Society has long worked to protect and preserve the rich history of the town of Lebanon and its remarkable town green," King said in a statement. "It will continue to pursue all legal options to ensure that the entirety of the green, which has for centuries been a unified whole, is protected for public use in perpetuity."

The state attorney general's office, which is a party in the lawsuit and supported the historical society's position, said in a statement that it was reviewing the ruling and considering how to respond.

The pastor of the church, the Rev. Dr. Will Sencabaugh, declined to comment. Mary Mintel Miller, the church's attorney, said a ruling in favor of the church would have been bad for all landowners in Connecticut.

"It would become a problem not just for this one piece of land in Lebanon, but for towns all over the state if suddenly neighbors can just be unhappy with the way a neighbor is using their property and say, 'Well, I own the next door property so I should be able to bring ... action.' "

The church, in another court case, is seeking ownership of the 2-acre parcel and has agreed to some restrictions requested by the town.

In 2019, a generations-old question of who actually owns the green was resolved after two years of negotiations and court hearings, giving most of the ownership to the town — excluding the church parcel — and conservation authority over 95% of the green to the historical society.

Beforehand, the green was determined to actually belong to the "heirs and assigns" of 51 original proprietors — the 17th and early 18th-century investors in the property. The town's historian estimated there could be about 10,000 descendants of the original landowners and most of them would have to sign off on any changes to the usage of the land.

Town officials, in a court case seeking to declare the town the owner of properties on the green, put a notice in local newspapers seeking those "heirs and assigns," but none came forward.

The green has remained little changed over the past few centuries. It's lined with several historic buildings, now tourist attractions, including the homes of Revolutionary War-era Gov. Jonathan Trumbull and William Williams, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, as well as Connecticut's Revolutionary War office, which was visited by George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette and heroes of the American revolution.

Skeletal remains found near border of Harwinton and Litchfield

State police investigating discovery in woods about 100 feet off Campville Road

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

State police are investigating after skeletal remains were found in the woods near the Harwinton and Litchfield border on Sunday afternoon.

Police said Troop L in Litchfield was alerted to the remains by a person who was walking their dog in the woods near Campville Road, which lies between Harwinton and Northfield, a village within Litchfield.

Responding troopers found the remains about 100 feet off the roadway, police said.

The remains were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for further examination, after a search of the area by state detectives and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The incident is under active investigation.

Police ask those with more information to contact Troop L at 203-626-7900 and reference case number 2100521034.

Seamus McAvoy my be reached at smcavoy@courant.com.

Bridgeport added to Sikorsky airport title

City officials make decision without public comment

Associated Press

Bridgeport city officials have approved the renaming of Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport in Stratford as the Bridgeport Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport, drawing criticism from the family of the famous aviation innovator.

The Connecticut Post reported the move was made Friday without public input, and was a do-over of a vote earlier in the week that wasn't properly noticed under the state's Freedom of Information Act.

The airport has been named since 1972 after Sikorsky, the Russian-born aviation innovator who invented the first practical helicopter and founded the Stratford-based aircraft manufacturing company that bears his name.

Igor Sikorsky at the controls of his V8 300 during its first flight in Stratford on Sept. 14, 1939. Sikorsky was one of the people who helped build Connecticut into an aerospace powerhouse. **FILE PHOTO**

Sikorsky's sons, who are in their 90s, and a local group, Friends of Sikorsky, opposed the name change. Stratford Mayor Laura Hoydick, the lone non-Bridgeport official on the four-member airport commission and the only one to vote against the change, lamented the lack of public comment. Hoydick wrote in a newsletter to constituents that the change "diminished the honor given to the airport's namesake and the importance of this aviation and engineering giant to the history and industry of our region."

The head of the group had requested an opportunity to speak before the vote, the Post reported. Municipal boards can allow public comments but aren't required to, according to the state Freedom of Information Commission.

Though the airport is in Stratford, Bridgeport has operated it since 1937 — and for years at a deficit — under various names. The name change is part of Mayor Joe Ganim's rebranding initiative, which includes returning regular passenger service to the airport, which now serves business, charter and private flights.

"We have carried a big, big burden with the airport but we never drop it cause we knew we were providing jobs and had hopes (for its success)," Bridgeport City Clerk Lydia Martinez, one of the three city officials who voted for the change, told the Post.

City officials also hope to eventually lease or sell the operation of the airport to the Connecticut Airport Authority, which also operates Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks and several smaller airports, the Post reported.

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Attorney John H. Hagel, Jr.
860-225-3518

Attorney Hagel can be reached at
Silver & Silver LLP
One Liberty Square, New Britain, Connecticut 06051
Phone - 860-225-3518 // Fax - 860-348-0612
www.lawsilver.com john@lawsilver.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Frederick J. Harris, Late of Cinton (21-0766)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated December 10, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Helene Yates, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Cathleen Harris
c/o Raymond Bower, Cartier & Bower, LLC, 2488 Boston Post Road, Suite 16A, Guilford, CT 06437
12/21/21 7108535

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Michael R. Corrado, Late of Old Saybrook, AKA Michael Richard Corrado (21-0733)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated December 13, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Nathan V. Corrado
c/o MICHAEL E CRONIN, MICHAEL E. CRONIN, JR., 201 MAIN ST, P.O. BOX 454, OLD SAYBROOK, CT 06475

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Kathleen F. McSweeney, Late of CLINTON (21-0745)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Savbrook Probate Court, by decree dated December 10, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Helene Yates, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Carol Peloquin-Peirano, 41 Kelseyton Road, Clinton, CT 06413
12/21/21 7108750

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION OLD SAYBROOK PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission of the Town of Old Saybrook, Connecticut made the following decisions at its regularly-scheduled meeting on December 15 2021:

A. "Amos" Notice of Proposed Activity in Conservation Easement to remove and replace a 12" driveway culvert and dredge pond 12"-18" of pond (100 to 150 CY)
273 Schoolhouse Road, Assessor's Map 50. Lot 11-1, Residence AA-1 Zoning District
Owner: Anita Amos Agent: Joe Wren, P.E.
PERMISSION GRANTED

Copies of application and plans are on file in the Land Use Department, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street, between the weekday hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

OLD SAYBROOK PLANNING COMMISSION
Norman Prevost, Jr., Chairman
12/21/21 7108662

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
132 Silas Deane Hwy
Wethersfield CT 06109
860-916-0534

Auction Date- Dec 28, 2021 1:00 PM

294 Victoria Jones House goods
655 Raymond James Jefferis Jr House goods
709 Patrick Wegner House goods
705 Joel Izquierdo House goods
491 Rishard Chever House goods
526 Stephanie Scanlon House goods
514 Michael Binion House goods

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property
12/14/21, 12/21/21 7099906

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Josip Peperni, Late of Lyme (21-0744)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated December 6, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Katie Yuille-Peperni
c/o CHARLES KENNETH NORRIS, CHINIGO LEONE MARUZO, 141 BROADWAY, P.O. BOX 510, NORWICH, CT 06360
12/21/2021 7107367

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF OF Charles A. DiFranco, III, Late of Westbrook, AKA C. DiFranco (21-0750)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated December 15, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Daniel C. DiFranco
c/o ANNETTE VARESE WILLIS, LAW OFFICE OF ANNETTE V. WILLIS P.L.L.C., 6 WAY ROAD, SUITE 202, MIDDLEFIELD, CT 06455

12/21/21 7109176

10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything contains a plethora of tidbits and trivia that will appeal to everyone, from history buffs to sports fans to foodies. From lighthearted topics such as misspellings and extreme eating, to serious subjects such as WWII and prison, this book leaves readers brighter and wittier than ever before.

FACT #84: A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #178 : Genuphobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238: Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

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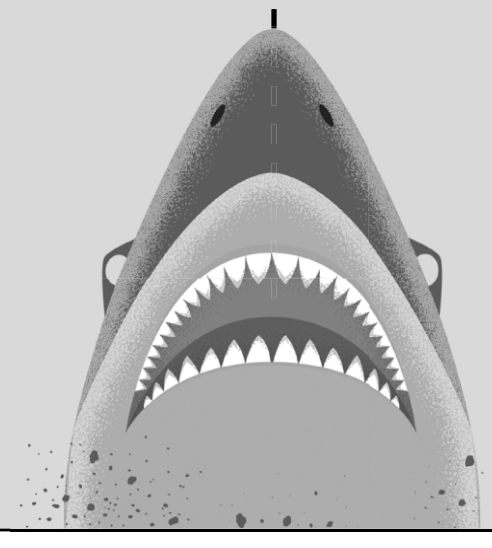

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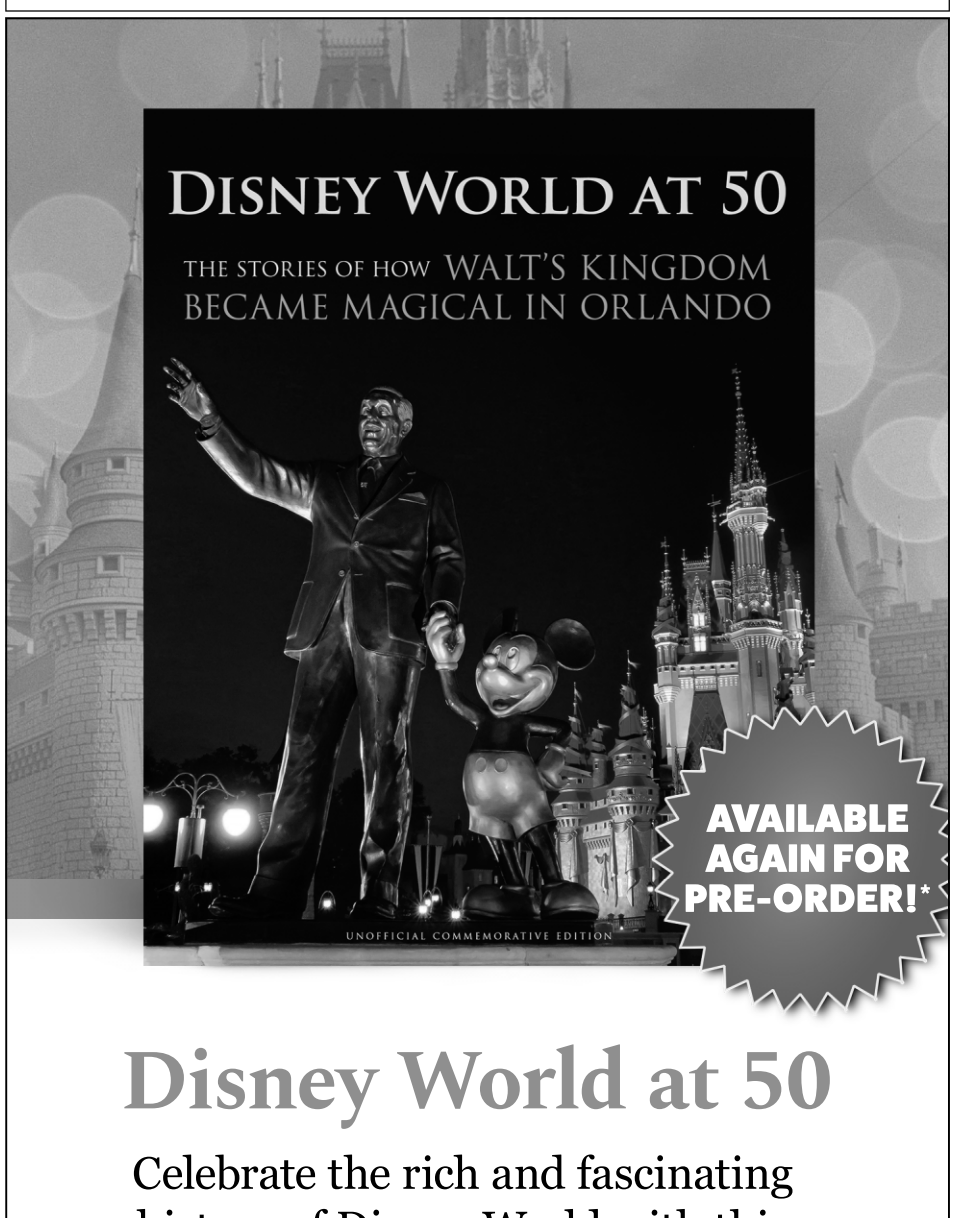
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Sweeney seals her stardom

Actor lands major TV, film roles and starts production company in 2021

By Amanda Lee Myers
Associated Press

Sydney Sweeney, seen Dec. 8, has appeared in HBO's "The White Lotus" and Amazon's "The Voyeurs." **MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP**

As she pursued her dream to become an actor, Sydney Sweeney's family lost their home, her parents got divorced, and she spent countless nights crying herself to sleep because of the constant rejection.

Hoping to put her family back together again, Sweeney vowed to find success and buy her parents a house when she turned 18. But like so many children of divorce, her wish never came true.

"There were many, many years where I got told 'No' endlessly," Sweeney said recently. "I got told I wasn't good enough, I would never make it, I wasn't pretty enough — all the time. And my parents were like, 'Are we doing the right thing?'"

It wasn't until 2018 that Sweeney finally got her big break, a small but memorable role in Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale." She was 21.

"When I was on set for the first time, I was like, 'I'm actually here. Like, this is what my mom and I always talked about,'" Sweeney said.

From there, she took off. That same year, she was in the critically acclaimed HBO miniseries "Sharp Objects" starring Amy Adams. In 2019, Sweeney starred alongside Zendaya and Hunter Schafer in HBO's "Euphoria," a frighteningly honest portrayal of teenage drug addiction and sex. And a month after "Euphoria" premiered, Sweeney was twirling in a pink gown alongside Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt at the premiere of Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," in which she played a member of the Manson family.

Sweeney sealed her stardom in 2021 with major roles in the hit HBO miniseries, "The White Lotus," and in Amazon's erotic thriller, "The Voyeurs." She also filmed the highly anticipated second season of "Euphoria," which drops in January.

On top of all that, Sweeney also started her own production company, Fifty-Fifty Films.

"I had the time during COVID, and ... I was reading all these books. I was like, 'Well, does anyone have the rights to them?'" Sweeney said.

In particular, Sweeney fell in love with Jessica Goodman's prep-school thriller, "They Wish They Were Us." So she flew to New York and convinced Goodman she could bring the story to life as a miniseries.

Retitled "The Players Table," Sweeney and her partners are now producing the series for HBO Max. It will star her and recording artist Halsey as two girls unraveling a classmate's murder in an affluent Long Island town.

None of Sweeney's success comes as a surprise to "The Voyeurs" director Michael Mohan, one of the first people in Hollywood to believe in her when he cast her in the 2018 Netflix series, "Everything Sucks."

"We read literally thousands of people for this role, and it really wasn't until Sydney came in that I was like, 'Oh, here she is. This is the person,'" Mohan said. "She just knocked our socks off."

Mohan said Sweeney stood out because she has an "innate ability to go to incredibly vulnerable places at the drop of a hat."

"She spends a lot of time preparing, and she spent a lot of time working out her character and figuring out the history of the character so she has things that she can draw from," he said. "And that takes time. That takes up a lot of energy. And I think that's what separates her from so many other performers, is just her insane work ethic."

He said he was in awe of her again while directing her in "The Voyeurs," her first leading role and one that required both sexually intimate and wildly emotional scenes.

"There are these scenes where she has this all-out sort of panic attack, sort of a wounded animal kind of response to something tragic that happens to her," Mohan said. "On four different days, she had to work herself up to the same type of snotty, teary cry. Everyone was like, 'We have to bring our A game because she is crushing it right now, and she's making really smart and interesting choices every single day, and this is potentially her breakthrough movie. So let's all support her, too, because we're witnessing the birth of a star here.'"

Despite all the success, it would be inaccurate to say that Sweeney is simply reveling in it.

"My parents lost their selves, and my parents got divorced," she said. "A lot happened in the meantime of being able to get here, so it's kind of like a bittersweet thing of, yes, my dream is coming true. But unfortunately, I lost a lot of family in the meantime."

Sweeney does appreciate what her career is allowing her to do for her loved ones.

"I was able to bring my grandmother to Paris and sit front row the Balmain fashion show, and she'd never traveled that far. She hadn't been to Europe, nothing," Sweeney said.

On another trip she took her cousins to Italy's glamorous Amalfi Coast.

"We grew up bumming on the lake and not taking showers and no TV and no internet," Sweeney said. "A lot of my family, we did not come from much of anything, and being able to give them a little slice of this world, that's what means the most to me ... Those are the biggest pinch-me moments."

And now, about six years shy of her goal, Sweeney has finally bought that house.

"I always thought that when I turned 18, I'd have all this money, and I'd buy back my parents' house and put them all back together again. And I never was able to, and I never did," she said. "So now being able to be in a house is such an incredible, humbling, amazing accomplishment that I still can't believe I was able to pull off."

CELEBRITIES

MJ (Zendaya) and Spider-Man (Tom Holland) jump off a bridge in "Spider-Man: No Way Home." **SONY PICTURES**

'Spider-Man' slings into records

From news services

"Spider-Man: No Way Home" now holds the title for the second-biggest opening weekend ever, behind only "Avengers: Endgame."

Weekend grosses for the third Tom Holland Spider-Man came in even higher than expected, netting out with $260 million from ticket sales in North America, Sony Pictures said Monday. It's also the best opening weekend ever for Spider-Man films, Sony Pictures and the month of December.

While the extra push Sunday put "No Way Home," ahead of "Avengers: Infinity War," which opened to $257.7 million in April 2018, it's still a ways behind "Avengers: Endgame," which debuted to $357.1 million in April 2019.

The stellar opening was a much-needed win for the theatrical exhibition business, which has struggled during the pandemic. Until "Spider-Man" came along, no film in the pandemic era had opened over $100 million.

Rudd hosts SNL sans audience: People's Sexiest Man Alive of 2021 was indeed inducted into the vaunted Five-Timers Club on "Saturday Night Live," but the surging omicron variant of the coronavirus meant there was no live audience to see it happen. Instead, viewers at home saw new sketches taped earlier in the week, as well as highlights from years past.

The long-running sketch comedy show announced on social media Saturday afternoon that the night's episode, featuring Paul Rudd as host, would tape without a live audience and with only limited cast and crew "due to the recent spike in the Omicron variant and out of an abundance of caution."

The entire cast — save for Kenan Thompson — and most of the crew had been sent home, too, Tom Hanks told viewers. Hanks opened the show, which forewent its usual cold open skit, to announce the departure from the show's planned Christmas episode.

Noah sues NYC hospital: Trevor Noah has sued the Hospital for Special Surgery and an orthopedic surgeon following an alleged botched surgery last year.

The 37-year-old host of Comedy Central's "Daily Show" filed suit in Manhattan Supreme Court against the hospital and orthopedic surgeon Riley J. Williams III alleging they were negligent while he was in their care.

Noah was treated at the hospital between August 2020 and December 2020 for "various medical conditions and other related treatment, including surgery which was performed on November 23, 2020," says the suit, filed Nov. 29.

Noah was bedridden and unable to work following the surgery, which rendered him "sick, sore lame and disabled," the suit states.

Noah's attorney, Justin Blitz, claims the comedian "sustained permanent, severe and grievous injuries." The lawsuit does not seek a specific sum of money. The Hospital for Special Surgery did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Dec. 21 birthdays: Actor Jane Fonda is 84. Actor Larry Bryggman is 83. Singer Carla Thomas is 79. Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 73. Actor Jane Kaczmarek is 66. Actor Ray Romano is 64. Comedian Andy Dick is 56. Actor Kiefer Sutherland is 55. Actor Rutina Wesley is 43. Actor Steven Yeun is 38. Actor Kaitlyn Dever is 25.

ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Refusal to make gift list creating family rift

Dear Amy: I was raised to not ask for gifts on special occasions such as Christmas, but to instead appreciate whatever someone wishes to give me, including no gift at all.

This means that I don't make gift lists, even when someone asks.

I have been in a relationship with a man for almost a decade. We have one young child. His family is a "list" family.

Since the beginning of our relationship, I have expressed I will not partake in this list-making for birthdays and Christmas.

After the first few years, I learned that my partner had been making a list for me behind my back and giving it to them.

I asked him to stop.

This year I was asked directly again by one of his family members on an entire family group text to provide a list for me and our daughter.

I specifically stated I was raised not to make lists and will be teaching our children the same — so no lists for me or them!

I mentioned that we have many hobbies and like trying new ones.

I also mentioned that I'd like to teach my children that it is not about the gifts, and that we'd be happy receiving anything or nothing.

I found out soon afterwards that my partner again went behind my back — and made lists for me and our child.

I am at a loss. I feel a lack of trust and disrespect toward me trying to instill certain values in my children.

Please share your opinion.

— *Against Gift Lists*

Dear Against: What you don't seem to understand is that many people simply don't know where to start.

So, by refusing to provide any guidance at all, you are making this whole process harder for these family members.

A lot of people really do want to give gifts that children will genuinely enjoy. But is your child into Legos or graphic novels? Do they love the science center or want to learn the violin?

Do they have a special wish or a collection the in-laws could add to?

This seems to have become a control thing for you, even though your goal seems to be the opposite.

It is obvious that your partner's family does not know you very well, but by wanting to give you a gift you would enjoy they are trying to please you.

Letting them know the things you like ("I'm really into gardening this year") will help to build a connection with them.

Your children will be raised with extended families that have different styles. That's not a bad thing. Your attitude toward this so far doesn't seem to demonstrate tolerance, grace or gratitude: core values that you are obviously passing along to your children.

Dear Amy: I have a somewhat trivial question, but maybe it's a nice break from the heavy topics you usually cover.

Like just about everybody else in the world, when getting together with friends we often pass around various photos taken on our phones.

I have one friend who has the habit of taking the phone, looking at the picture, then scrolling through the rest of the photos.

I find this to be presumptuous and kind of an invasion of privacy.

I've taken now to showing the photo but hanging on to my phone.

Am I being too picky?

— *Just Curious*

Dear Curious: I'm certain I've probably done this, usually assuming there is another photo like the one I'm being shown, but from a different angle.

I agree with you that this presents privacy concerns and is not polite. We should all keep this in mind when sharing photos and videos in a group setting.

If you have identified one friend who consistently does this, you could gently point it out: "Would you mind not scrolling through the rest of my photos? I've got a screenshot of my nuclear codes on there."

Dear Amy: "Upset" wrote to you about a conflict between a married couple about how to spend Christmas.

So, your advice to this couple is that they should work things out as if they were in a holiday movie?!

And maybe Jimmy Stewart could stop by to guide them.

— *Not Convinced*

Dear Not: Absolutely. That's the whole idea.

Copyright 2021 by Amy Dickinson

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Film helps Lowe embrace man who raised him

Family grapples with mountaineer dad's death in doc

By Amy Kaufman
Los Angeles Times

The Lowe-Anker family at the Shishapangma memorial site for Alex Lowe and David Bridges. **MAX LOWE/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

For years after the avalanche, Max Lowe still believed his father might come home.

After all, his dad's body had yet to be recovered from Shishapangma, the 26,289-foot peak he'd traveled to the Himalayas to ski down. Alex Lowe was a renowned mountaineer — a member of the North Face professional climbing team who'd summited Everest twice and appeared on the cover of Outside magazine. Maybe the rescue team had failed to find him miraculously alive in a crevasse.

And then there was the birthday card. Alex had painted it for his son during the expedition, just days before he was enveloped by a 500-foot-wide cascade of snow. When it arrived in the mail at the Lowes' home in Montana — shortly after the disaster in Tibet — 10-year-old Max saw it as a sort of talisman.

More so than his brothers, who were just 3 and 7 when Alex went missing in October 1999, Max clung to his father's memory. When their mother remarried a year and a half later, he was the only one to keep Lowe as his last name. In fact, it wasn't until 2016 — when news came that Alex's remains had been found by a climber — that Max would really begin grappling with his relationship to his dad.

That's ostensibly what "Torn," the documentary he would go on to make, is about: a son trying to get to know the father he didn't get enough time with. But the film, recently released theatrically by National Geographic and on Disney+ in early 2022, is also about the dad Max gained when he lost Alex. That's Conrad Anker, who also happened to be Alex's climbing partner and best friend. He was on Shishapangma with Alex, and was the one who called the Lowes to tell them about the avalanche.

"Making this film, in part, was something I wanted to do for Conrad," said Max, now 33. "To paint a picture of Alex more resolutely, that speaks to his flaws and tells a story we can relate to more."

Max lives across the street from Anker and his mother, Jenni Lowe-Anker, in Bozeman, Montana. Both men are the strong, silent type, less interested in ruminating on their feelings than churning forward with a positive attitude. "Torn," however, would require facing such uncomfortable conversations head on. And at first, Anker was reluctant.

"He wasn't real keen on it at first," admitted Lowe-Anker. "He's not a guy who wears his emotions on his sleeve. It was really hard for him to think of dragging all that pain back out, and especially doing it on camera. But we talked about it and said: 'This is Max's journey. This is our son.'"

At 59, Anker has spent the majority of his life in the public eye. He skyrocketed to fame in 1999, after discovering George Mallory's remains on Everest. At the same time, he said he and Alex had become "the standard-bearers for alpine climbing," trailed by camera crews on their trips and giving keynotes at outdoor trade shows. And after Alex's death, Anker continued to cement his reputation as one of the world's most accomplished athletes, tackling dozens of risky and remote summits. He even survived a heart attack that hit while mid-climb at 20,000 feet — an incident that would cause him to retire from high-altitude mountaineering.

The heart attack occurred in 2016, the same year Alex's body was found. Anker, Lowe-Anker and their three boys decided to travel to Tibet together to retrieve the remains. The endeavor required a massive logistical effort: obtaining special entry visas, securing a police escort, buying body bags and stretchers.

Not knowing if he'd ever use the footage, Max — who'd made short documentaries and branded content for companies such as REI and Red Bull — sought his family's permission to film the journey on a hand-held camera. The level of emotion he captured surprised everyone.

"It was the first time I could see how much Conrad was still dealing with the survivor's guilt around Alex's death, and impostor syndrome," said Max.

Back in Montana, Max began unpacking his own response to the trip. A friend who ran a local ideas summit asked if he'd give a presentation about the journey, and on stage, Max broke down crying. He realized he'd gained access to a new level of vulnerability he'd never explored and decided to ask his family "to step up and come to the table" for full-fledged interviews about Alex's death.

Still, Max was particularly anxious about his one-on-one with Anker.

"For whatever reason, we have never really been able to talk about stuff with a level of intimacy," Max said.

As a teenager, he said he was reluctant to broach the sensitive subject matter for fear of "rocking the boat." In 2007, when his mother published a memoir about her life with Alex, Max couldn't get through it.

"I hid a lot of those feelings," he acknowledged.

But as it would turn out, the camera allowed Max the freedom to ask the questions he'd buried for so long. In return, his relatives met him with a newfound level of candor. Anker opened up about the pressure he felt to fill Alex's shoes and live up to the "good guy" ideal the public assigned him after he adopted the boys. Lowe-Anker read aloud from intimate love letters written to her by both of her husbands.

In one of the notes, sent just a month after Alex's death in 1999, Anker wrote: "There is hardly a moment that the four of you are not in my thoughts. At times, it is difficult for me. I cry myself to sleep, waking up grinding my teeth with very dark thoughts. I gather strength knowing that you are there. You and the boys are the ones I want to help and care for. To be there for the boys as they mature into little men and become men is something I hope to do."

"That really hit me," Max said of the note. "I hadn't ever thought about it that way, that he wanted to be there for us more than anything else. Not that he didn't want to be there for my mom. But for me and my brothers in this deep, emotional sense. I opened myself up to that."

The revelation prompted Max to express his love for Anker on camera. To say 'thank you' for stepping in. To tell him that no one could have done a better job. To say he considers Anker "Dad."

It's not that Max had never told Anker he loved him. But "Torn" was a different kind of gift.

"It's a tribute from Max of his love for me," Anker said. "I'm very grateful for that, and I recognize it. It took a lot."

TV Q&A

What is age difference between 'Blue Bloods' father-son actors?

By Rich Heldenfels
Tribune News Service

Tom Selleck as Frank Reagan and Len Cariou as Henry Reagan in "Blue Bloods." **JOHN PAUL FILO/CBS**

Q: How much of an age difference is there between Tom Selleck and Len Cariou? I'm thinking not much.

A: You are correct. Tom Selleck, who plays Frank Reagan on "Blue Bloods," will be 77 in January. Len Cariou, who plays Frank's father, Henry, is 82. That's some acting magic for you. And, before someone asks, Frank's children are played by Bridget Moynahan, 50; Donnie Wahlberg, 52; and Will Estes, 43.

Q: I know my question is not the usual kind of request. A beautiful poem was read during the funeral service for Bob Dole about "the dash we do during our lifetime." I would appreciate any help you can offer as to the title or the author.

A: While TV is the topic most of the time, I am open to all kinds of arts and entertainment questions here. The work read at Dole's funeral is "The Dash" by Linda Ellis. Dole reportedly quoted the poem often in speeches.

Q: Is "La Brea" coming back?

A: It is. NBC ordered a second season in November. But it appears you will not see new episodes before fall 2022.

Q: David Spade had a half-hour comedy series after the Trevor Noah show on Comedy Central. It disappeared during COVID. Will it come back?

A: No. "Lights Out With David Spade" was canceled, with Spade saying a Comedy Central executive wanted to "go kind of cheap." Spade's show wasn't that expensive, he told the Los Angeles Times, "but I think he's talking, like, really inexpensive. ... I think that's how tough the biz is, where they say, 'How much is that one? OK, get rid of it.'"

Q: "Our Miss Brooks" was a great comedy in the 1950s, with reruns on the Decades channel. But, in 1955, several of the regular stars were dropped from the series. Please tell me why.

A: It's a short answer: Ratings. The comedy starring Eve Arden as a high school teacher had been a hit in its first two seasons, from 1952 to 1954, but in its third season, 1954-55, it had fallen in the TV rankings. To revive interest, the show changed the setting and some of the cast. According to "The Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable TV Shows," the change proved unsuccessful and one former cast member, Robert Rockwell as Mr. Boynton, was brought back late in the season. Still, the series ended in 1956, although there was an "Our Miss Brooks" movie that year.

Q: I was a fan of "Felicity" (with Keri Russell). Is it ever going to be available on any channel or streaming service?

A: One place to see it is on Hulu, which has all four seasons from 1998 to 2002. You should be prepared for some changes in the music. As a New York Times story in April noted, "Felicity" did not secure long-term rights to the songs in the show. "When it came time to re-license the music for DVD and streaming, the distributor, ABC Studios, opted not to bother. If you stream the show now ... song choices have been replaced with cheap-sounding Muzak and tracks by unknown bands."

Q: I have been looking in TV listings for "World on Fire." Do you know if it will return?

A: A second season of the World War II drama was ordered two years ago. But the pandemic delayed production, and I have not seen an air date for the new season.

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Set your sights as high as you possibly can, and for you, that's probably pretty high! You should do your best to sharpen your focus and make this period count. Bosses could be happier than ever to lend you a helping hand.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Something wonderful may be coming your way at this very moment! Experience freedom once again and start to explore the world, on a level that will satisfy you mentally, physically and spiritually. Think about anything you've been missing in the great wide yonder.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Things could seem very intense for a while. There are opportunities for growth coming your way, but it's probably the kind of growth that creates diamond. Creating a few diamonds of your own might not be the most comfortable process, but the universe knows you can do it!

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Even if you usually prefer to handle most things on your own, you can't deny that there are times when life is easier with someone there beside you. Regardless of who this person is to you, its OK to accept support from the people in your life ! You might be pleasantly surprised.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Good things take work and you're good at staying on top of matters. If you've fallen out of any positive habits, be it with your sleep schedule, your diet or another aspect of your health, then now is a great time to hop right back on the horse and to stay there. You can go far.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to wake up! You're now being called to get out of bed and start living life to the fullest again. This is a good moment to return to your own personal program and put yourself and your desires front and center. Focus on the things that bring you the most joy in this world.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's a good day to putter around the house and work on yourself rather than focusing on others or any major projects. If you do feel the urge to make a difference, make an effort to apply this energy to your home. Some redecorating or small renovations could really freshen things up for you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The pace is about to start picking up, so don't be shocked if it seems like things are happening faster and more frequently than they have in a while. Opportunities to connect with people will probably come your way. You may need to start keeping a planner or schedule.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're entering an especially lucrative time of year, which probably sounds amazing! Don't hesitate to dig in and get to work. If you've already been putting in the effort at work then it might be time to ask for a raise. Go ahead and start looking for greener pastures.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Rub the sleep out of your eyes and start showing people what you're all about. If you've been living life in the background or hanging out in the wings, its time to hop into center stage and command the spotlight! New beginnings are available every day, so don't wait.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The heat is getting turned down for you, so don't be shocked if you want to spend some time alone and avoid people for a while. You're entering one of the quietest times of the year, when the energy is focused on detoxing old habits so you can make room for better ones. Create space for them.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mach 20): Step back and take some time to check in with your loved ones. You might have missed some developments. If nothing special is going on, connecting with others can still bring great happiness. Chances are high that something big is in the works. Figure out what's going on.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Dec. 21, 1620, pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts.

In 1864, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman concluded their "March to the Sea" as they captured Savannah, Georgia.

In 1891, the first basketball game, devised by James Naismith, is believed to have been played in Springfield, Massachusetts.

In 1968, Apollo 8 was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.

In 1991, 11 of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaimed the death of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In 1995, the city of Bethlehem passed from Israeli to Palestinian control.

In 2015, the nation's three-decade-old ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men was formally lifted in the U.S.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

		9				5		
	6		9		1	2		
		7						
	1			6	9		5	
			1		3			
	2		5	8		7	1	
				3		8		
		3	4		8		7	
		1				3		

Level: 1 **2** 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

5	6	3	2	9	7	1	8	4
2	7	6	8	1	4	3	5	6
1	4	8	5	3	6	2	7	9
6	1	7	4	8	5	9	2	3
8	2	6	3	7	1	4	9	5
3	5	4	9	6	2	8	1	7
4	9	1	6	5	8	7	3	2
7	3	2	1	4	9	5	6	8
9	8	5	7	2	3	6	4	1

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BOGGLE

Boggle® BrainBusters!™ BUPH WOIS GOKE AGLM

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

T	L	E	C
L	U	T	O
F	O	B	H
P	P	R	A

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE
- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31 - 60 = Gamer
- 21 - 30 = Rookie
- 11 - 20 = Amateur
- 0 - 10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST SIX MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS in the grid of letters.

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

TUBA LUTE OBOE HARP FLUTE CELLO

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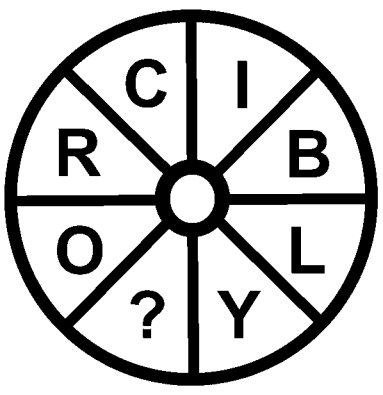
9-28-19

www.bogglebrainbusters.com

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

FORCIBLY

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: O my!

244

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

C	U	R	I	O	S	P	Y	L	A	C	V	O	L	C	A	N	O
J	E	T	E	R	W	O	D	A	C	O	V	A	G	O	Y	C	L
O	V	O	R	E	H	D	T	J	A	O	N	O	H	N	A	D	M
D	B	D	D	Z	A	Y	O	A	R	J	D	C	G	R	A	A	B
O	A	E	P	C	L	N	E	N	T	L	N	N	G	I	L	M	W
C	M	P	Z	A	O	A	D	G	R	O	M	O	U	L	D	U	O
C	B	R	O	A	W	M	I	L	P	E	P	A	E	B	W	N	T
U	O	O	E	G	G	O	V	Q	M	M	F	G	A	X	S	E	I
T	O	T	T	O	R	Z	O	E	X	R	R	N	T	E	M	P	O
S	T	O	L	A	O	A	N	B	V	O	G	K	I	O	U	O	I
A	F	I	T	O	T	T	B	R	A	T	I	O	T	J	I	P	O
O	S	T	S	R	O	T	O	M	A	T	O	I	O	D	O	D	X
C	G	A	O	T	O	O	O	M	E	K	U	B	U	T	U	B	X
I	R	P	P	S	V	H	J	O	C	Q	M	T	T	J	M	A	M
L	O	N	R	I	M	C	E	U	S	U	S	I	R	H	O	N	A
A	T	O	A	B	D	E	C	O	G	O	D	U	R	E	T	J	L
C	T	O	N	A	I	P	M	T	L	O	O	L	G	I	T	O	S
P	O	T	O	R	N	A	D	O	V	E	R	T	I	G	O	Q	O

ALLEGRO	DYNAMO	MEMENTO	STUDIO
ALSO	ECHO	MEMO	TABOO
AVOCADO	EMBARGO	MOSQUITO	TATTOO
BAMBOO	GAZEBO	MOTTO	TEMPO
BANJO	GROTTO	PATIO	TOMATO
BISTRO	GUMBO	PIANO	TORNADO
CALICO	HALO	PONCHO	TORPEDO
CALYPSO	HERO	POTATO	TORSO
CARGO	IGLOO	RATIO	UNDO
CUCKOO	INDIGO	SILO	VERTIGO
CURIO	INFERNO	SOLO	VIDEO
DITTO	JUDO	SOPRANO	VOLCANO
DUO	MANGO	STUCCO	ZERO

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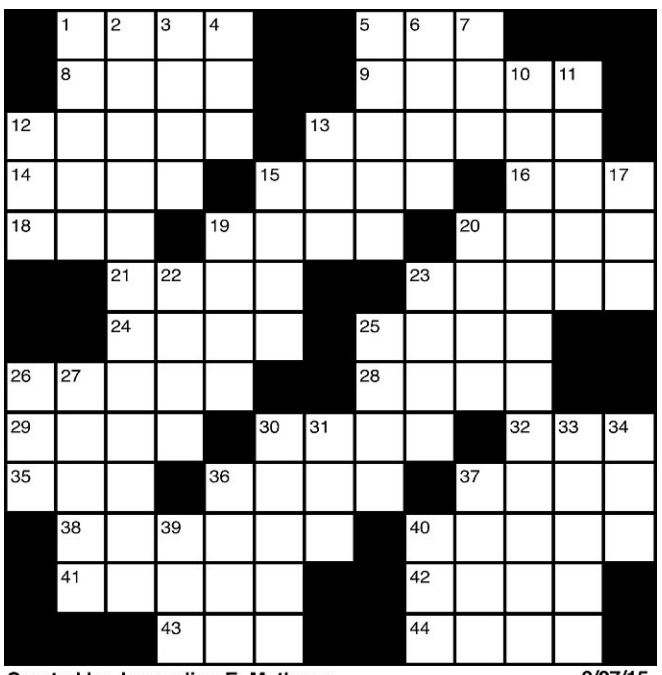
TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 9/27/15

ACROSS
1 "Leave __ Beaver"
5 "__ Age"; hit animated film
8 "The Daily __ with Jon Stewart"
9 Bart's mom
12 Howard or Isaac
13 Capital of Turkey
14 Oxford or loafer
15 Woodwind instrument
16 "The __ and I"; Fred MacMurray movie
18 Night we watch "Modern Family": abbr.
19 Treaty
20 "Gomer __, U.S.M.C."
21 "Yes, __"
23 Artist's stand
24 Taurus and Prius
25 Lady __ of the music world
26 Actor Baio
28 Large kitchen appliance
29 Therefore
30 Seymour or Pauley
32 Tally up
35 This month: abbr.
36 Hackman or Wilder
37 Remain
38 Show off
40 Demi or Shemar
41 Family car
42 __ Edna; character played by an Australian comedian
43 "Peg __ Heart"; old Marion Davies movie
44 The __ the limit!"

DOWN
1 "Orange __ New Black"
2 Matthew Perry sitcom
3 Ripped
4 "My __ Worst Enemy"; short-lived Christian Slater series
5 "__ Rappaport"; Walter Matthau movie
6 "__ Boss"; TLC reality series
7 Historical period
10 Series for Ellen Pompeo
11 "__ Eye"; Shia LaBeouf thriller
12 180° from NNE
13 "Good Morning America" network
15 Boatman's needs
17 Become firm
19 Go separate ways
20 Singer Patti
22 Gobbles up
23 Roof overhang
25 "__ with the Wind"
26 Wall and Easy: abbr.
27 Julia Child and Emeril Lagasse
30 Taylor Momsen's role on "Gossip Girl"
31 "The Atom __ Show"; cartoon series of the past
33 Shows boldness
34 John of "Touched by an Angel"
36 Largest of the Mariana Islands
37 __ up; absorb
39 "Much __ About Nothing"
40 Trapper John and Doogie Howser: abbr.

10/4/15

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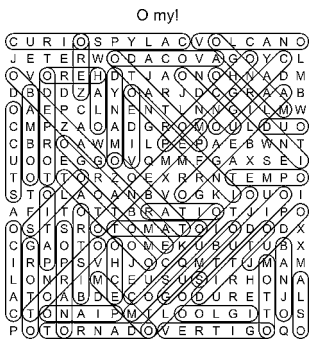
9/27/15

O my!



N	O	S	T	A	L	G	I	A

JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YINRA

GUYMG

WEYIRN

TARTHO

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I can't believe I'm not able to finish this. I must be getting old.
Do you need a doggie bag?
THE DOG JUST COULDN'T FINISH CHEWING THE WHOLE BONE, AND IT WAS ---

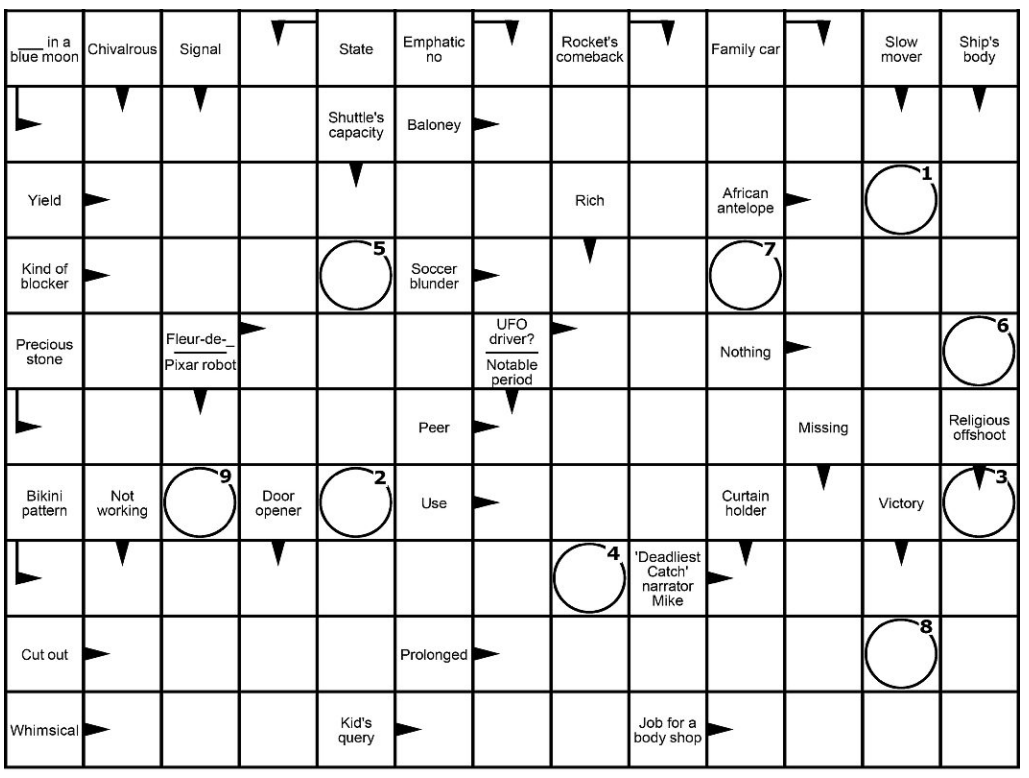
Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: RAINY MUGGY WINERY THROAT
Answer: The dog just couldn't finish chewing the whole bone, and it was — GNAWING AT HIM

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



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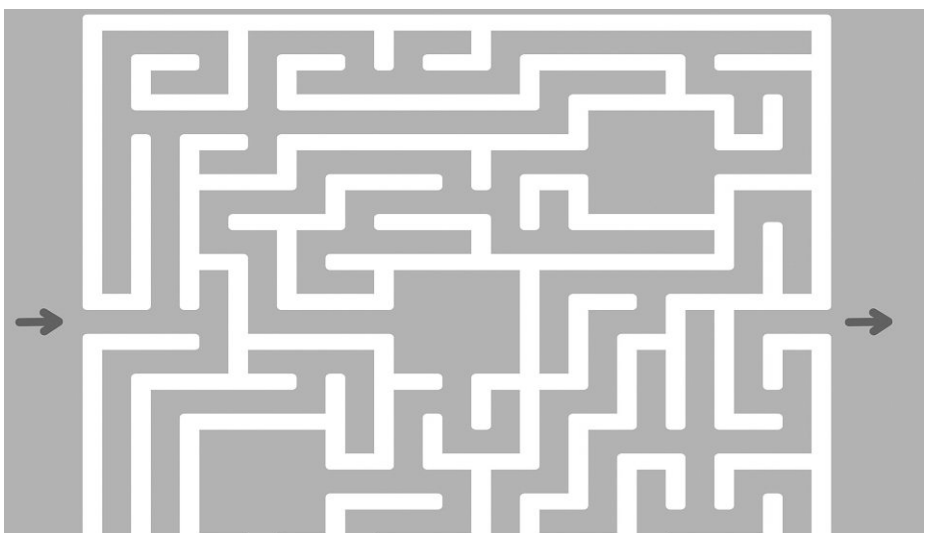
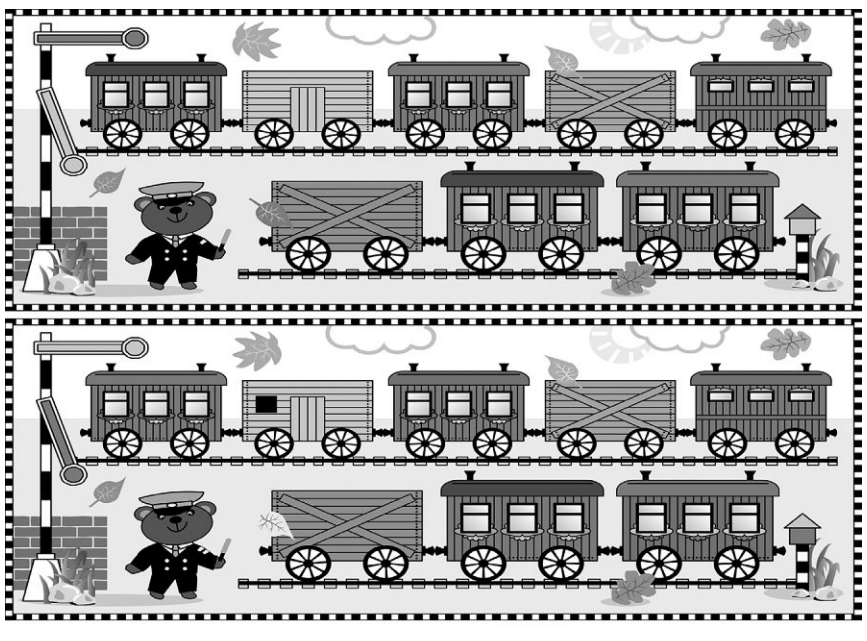
11/23/19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



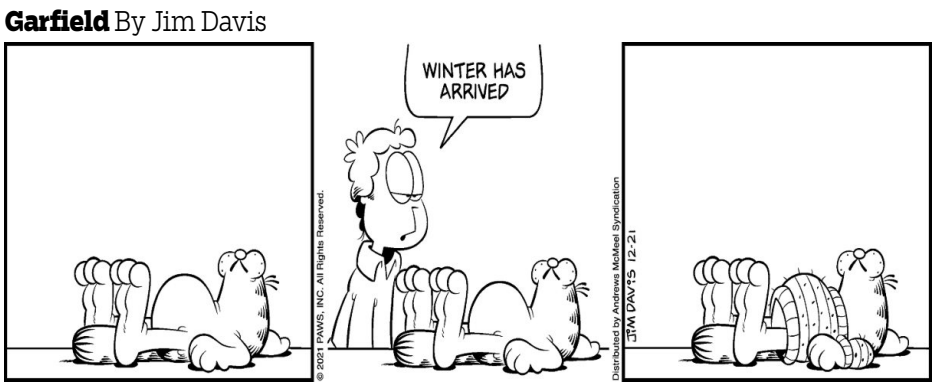
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

LOOK AT THAT!
DON'T YOU EVER WORRY ABOUT THAT STUPID BEAGLE, CHARLIE BROWN? JUST LOOK AT HIM! HE'S COVERED WITH SNOW!!
12/21
DON'T YOU EVER WORRY ABOUT HIM?
ACTUALLY, I'M FINE, BUT SOMEONE COULD SLIP ME A TOASTED ENGLISH MUFFIN IF HE WANTED TO..

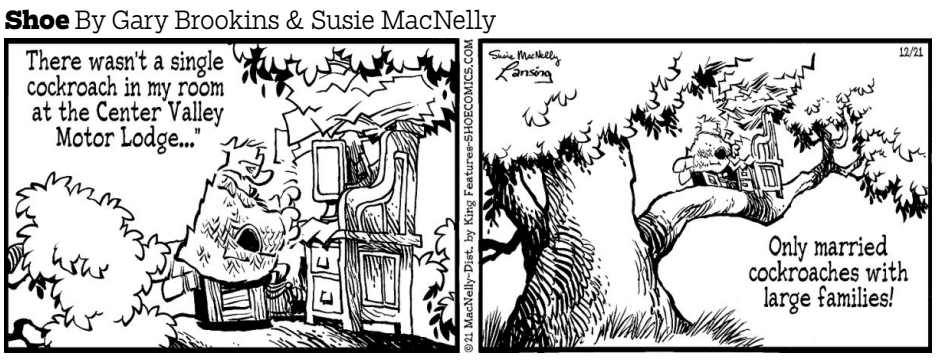
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau

BOY, YOU WERE ON A TECHIE TEAR THIS MORNING, KIM...
WAS I?
WHEN I'M HACKING A CHUNK OF CODE, I TEND TO TUNE OUT, TO GET IN THE ZONE...
12-21
WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE I USED TO FLASH ON COOL IDEAS IN THE SHOWER. I'D JUMP OUT, RUN TO MY P.C., AND TYPE IN THE NUDE FOR HOURS!
I... I WOULD HAVE TRANSFERRED TO SEE THAT.
REALLY? I WAS AT M.I.T.- MY HOUSEMATES NEVER NOTICED.

Garfield By Jim Davis



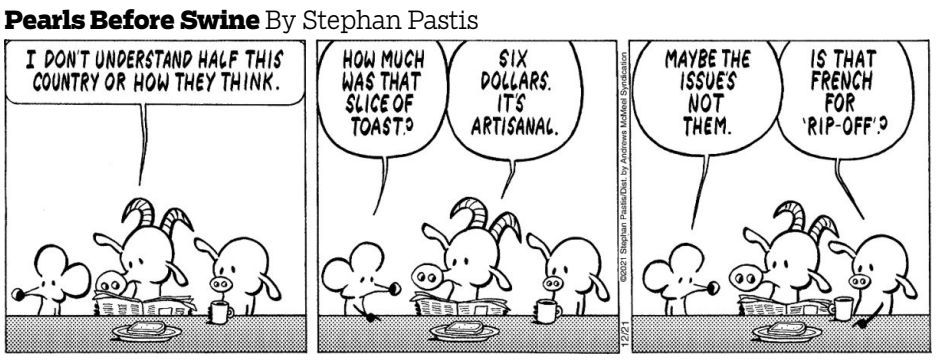
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly


There wasn't a single cockroach in my room at the Center Valley Motor Lodge..."
12/21
Only married cockroaches with large families!

Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker

THE SOONER YOU APPLY THE BETTER, DUSTIN.
I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO THINK ABOUT JOBS UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS.
LEAVE IT TO DUSTIN TO PUT OFF PROCRASTINATING.

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis


I DON'T UNDERSTAND HALF THIS COUNTRY OR HOW THEY THINK.
HOW MUCH WAS THAT SLICE OF TOAST?
SIX DOLLARS. IT'S ARTISANAL.
MAYBE THE ISSUE'S NOT THEM.
IS THAT FRENCH FOR 'RIP-OFF'?

Mutts By Patrick McDonnell

AS SANTA'S HELPER, WHAT DO YOU PUT IN THE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS?
HO HO
CANDY CANES, CHOCOLATE CHERRIES, TANGERINES, LITTLE NOUGAT CANDIES...
... AND THE OCCASIONAL HAIRBALL.
www.kingfeatures.com
mutts.com 12·21

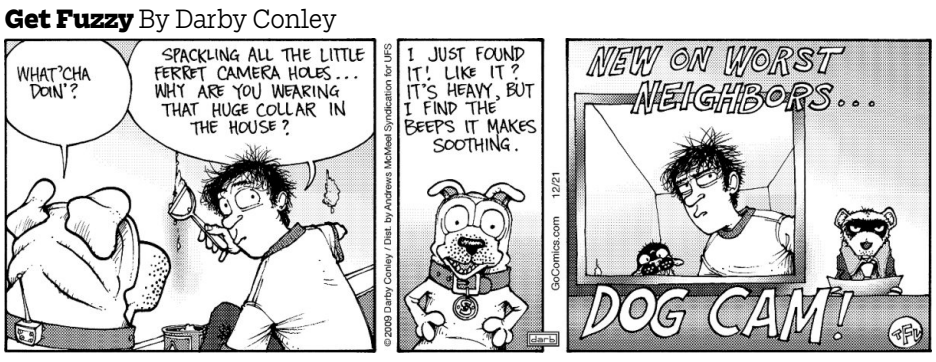
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt

ISN'T IT AMAZING WE CAN COUNT WALRUSES FROM SPACE?
AMAZING OR TROUBLING?
MEANWHILE
I STILL HAVE THE FEELING WE'RE BEING SPIED ON...
DON'T BE SILLY – WE DELETED OUR FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS.
12-21

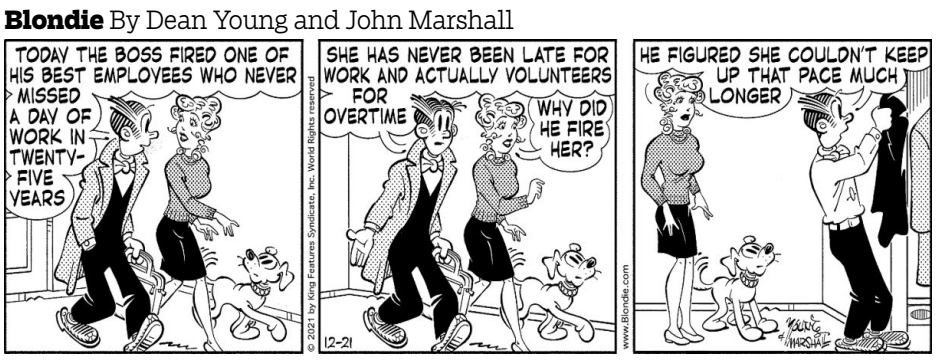
Jump Start By Robb Armstrong

HI, NICOLE... IT'S ME. I'M ON MY WAY TO SEE YOU!
DAD?! IS THIS REALLY YOU?!
I'M BETTER, NICOLE. MUCH BETTER!
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND YOU FOR YEARS!
HOORAY! YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO THE HEALTH SCIENCES PAVILION?
I'M ON MY WAY TO HAWAII!

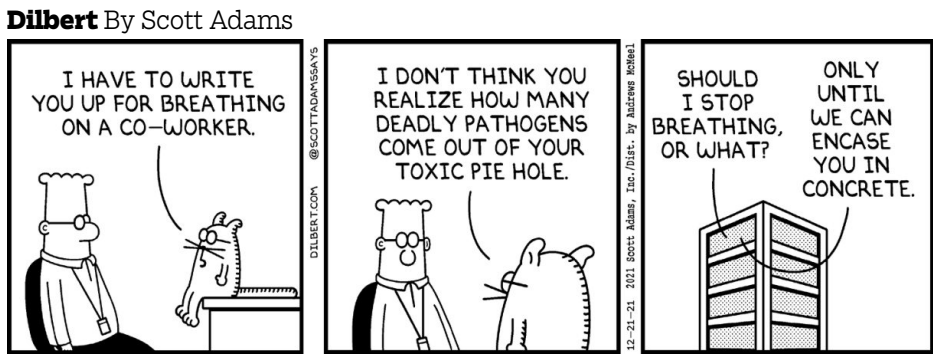
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley


WHAT'CHA DOIN'?
SPACKLING ALL THE LITTLE FERRET CAMERA HOLES... WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT HUGE COLLAR IN THE HOUSE?
I JUST FOUND IT! LIKE IT? IT'S HEAVY, BUT I FIND THE BEEPS IT MAKES SOOTHING.
NEW ON WORST NEIGHBORS...
DOG CAM!

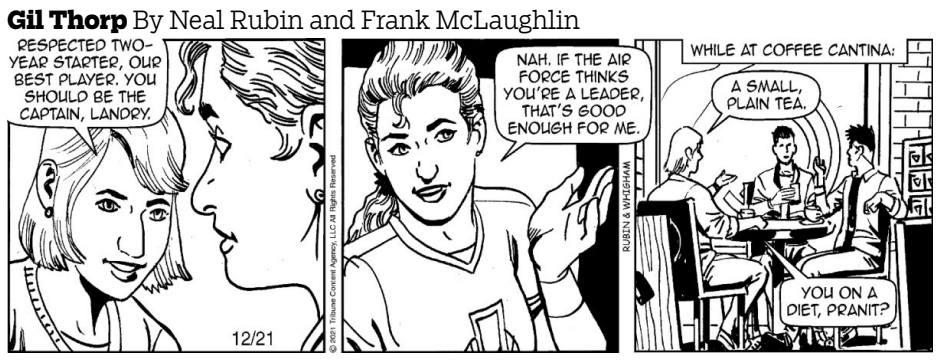
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall


TODAY THE BOSS FIRED ONE OF HIS BEST EMPLOYEES WHO NEVER MISSED A DAY OF WORK IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
SHE HAS NEVER BEEN LATE FOR WORK AND ACTUALLY VOLUNTEERS FOR OVERTIME
WHY DID HE FIRE HER?
HE FIGURED SHE COULDN'T KEEP UP THAT PACE MUCH LONGER

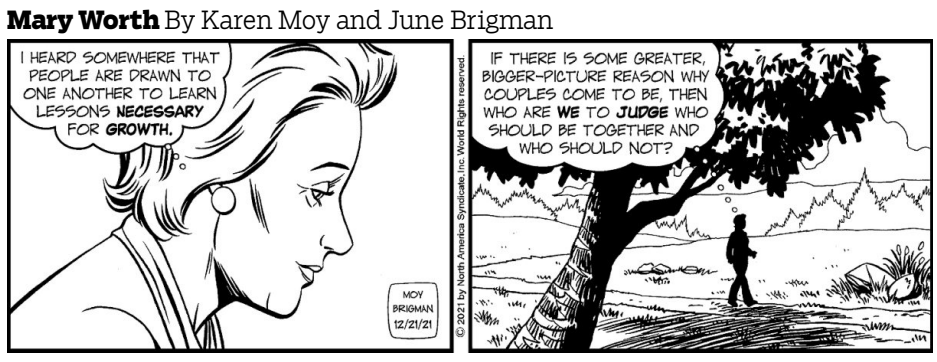
Dilbert By Scott Adams


I HAVE TO WRITE YOU UP FOR BREATHING ON A CO-WORKER.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
I DON'T THINK YOU REALIZE HOW MANY DEADLY PATHOGENS COME OUT OF YOUR TOXIC PIE HOLE.
SHOULD I STOP BREATHING, OR WHAT?
ONLY UNTIL WE CAN ENCASE YOU IN CONCRETE.
12-21-21 2021 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

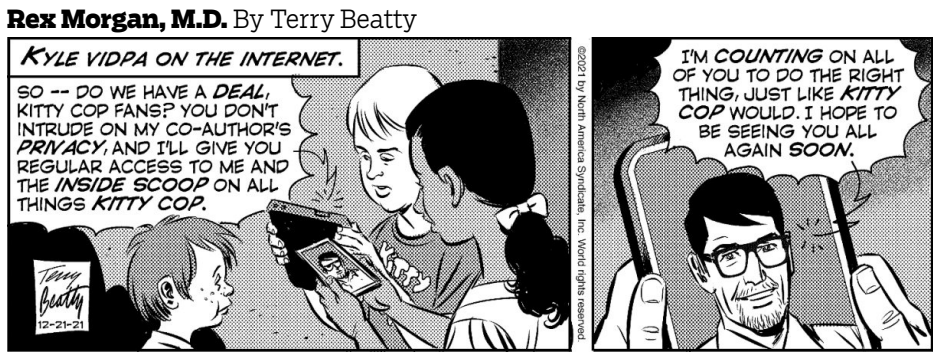
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin


RESPECTED TWO-YEAR STARTER, OUR BEST PLAYER. YOU SHOULD BE THE CAPTAIN, LANDRY.
12/21
NAH. IF THE AIR FORCE THINKS YOU'RE A LEADER, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
RUBIN & WRIGHAM
WHILE AT COFFEE CANTINA:
A SMALL, PLAIN TEA.
YOU ON A DIET, PRANIT?

Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman


I HEARD SOMEWHERE THAT PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO ONE ANOTHER TO LEARN LESSONS NECESSARY FOR GROWTH.
MOY BRIGMAN 12/21/21
IF THERE IS SOME GREATER, BIGGER-PICTURE REASON WHY COUPLES COME TO BE, THEN WHO ARE WE TO JUDGE WHO SHOULD BE TOGETHER AND WHO SHOULD NOT?

Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty


KYLE VIDPA ON THE INTERNET.
SO -- DO WE HAVE A DEAL, KITTY COP FANS? YOU DON'T INTRUDE ON MY CO-AUTHOR'S PRIVACY, AND I'LL GIVE YOU REGULAR ACCESS TO ME AND THE INSIDE SCOOP ON ALL THINGS KITTY COP.
Terry Beatty 12-21-21
I'M COUNTING ON ALL OF YOU TO DO THE RIGHT THING, JUST LIKE KITTY COP WOULD. I HOPE TO BE SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN SOON.

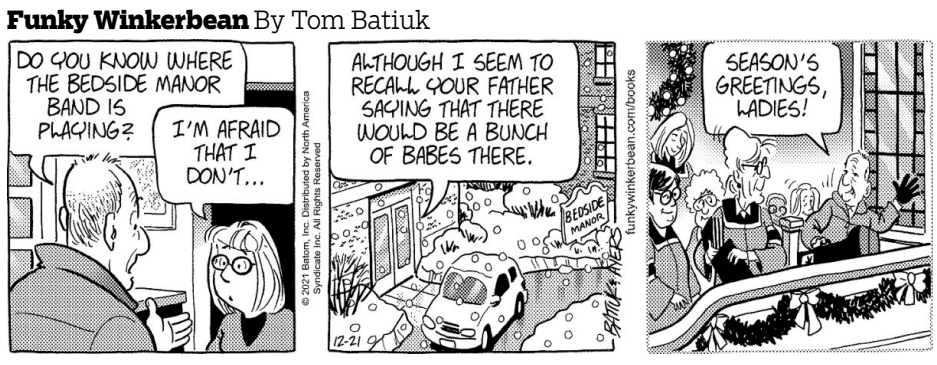
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley

ABBEY, WHAT'S WRONG?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
LOOK!
DEPUTY MAYOR ACCUSES MAYOR OF ARSON
MAYOR SANDERSON PLANNED AND HAD EXECUTED THE TORCHING OF ABBEY SPENCER'S BED AND BREAKFAST.
MARCIULIANO + MANLEY 12.21
AYOR ACCUSES MAYOR OF ARSON

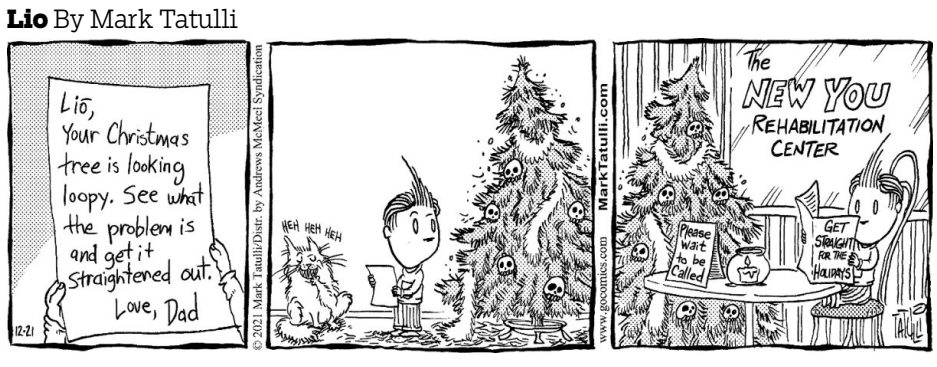
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos

EVERY YEAR, MY ABUELITO WANTED THE SAME THINGS FOR CHRISTMAS.
A HAT...
SOME UNDERWEAR...
AND A BOTTLE OF RUM.
HE NEVER GOT MAD IF HE DIDN'T GET A HAT OR UNDERWEAR.

Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk

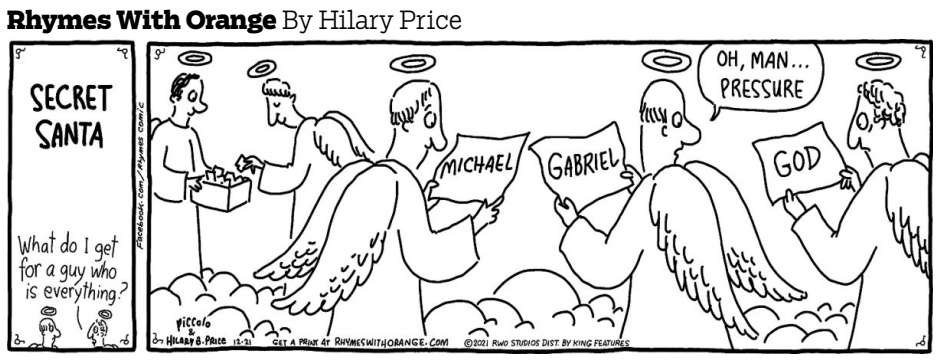

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE BEDSIDE MANOR BAND IS PLAYING?
I'M AFRAID THAT I DON'T...
ALTHOUGH I SEEM TO RECALL YOUR FATHER SAYING THAT THERE WOULD BE A BUNCH OF BABES THERE.
BEDSIDE MANOR
SEASON'S GREETINGS, LADIES!
funkywinkerbean.com/books

Lio By Mark Tatulli


Lio, Your Christmas tree is looking loopy. See what the problem is and get it straightened out. Love, Dad
HEH HEH HEH
MarkTatulli.com
The NEW YOU REHABILITATION CENTER
Please wait to be Called
GET STRAIGHT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker

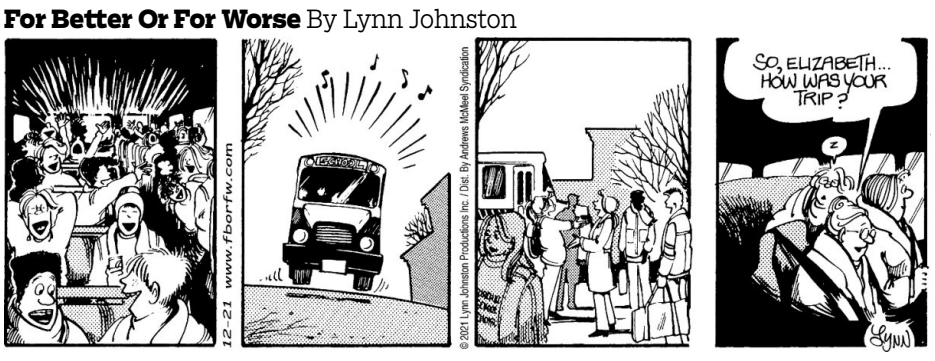
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick

INSTALLING LASER PROJECTOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS?
I CAN HARDLY WAIT 'TIL TONIGHT... IT'S GONNA LOOK SO COOL!
ZZZZZ
REMOVING THE LASER PROJECTOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS?
I DREAMT LAST NIGHT THAT I WAS CORNERED AND TARGETED BY SPECIAL OPS FORCES.

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston


www.fborfw.com
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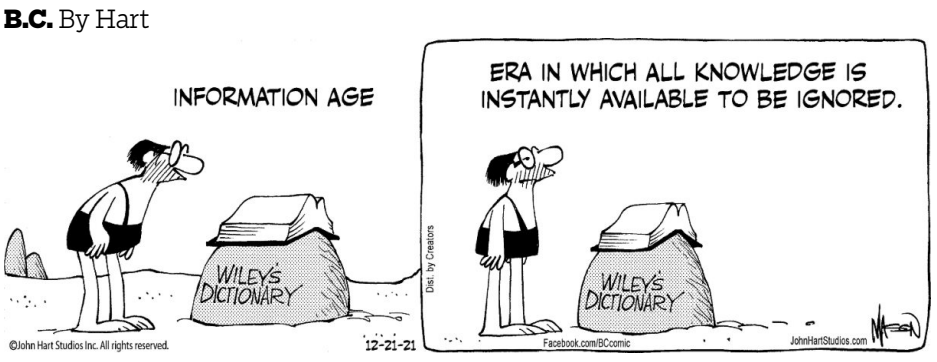
SO, ELIZABETH... HOW WAS YOUR TRIP?
LYNN

B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker

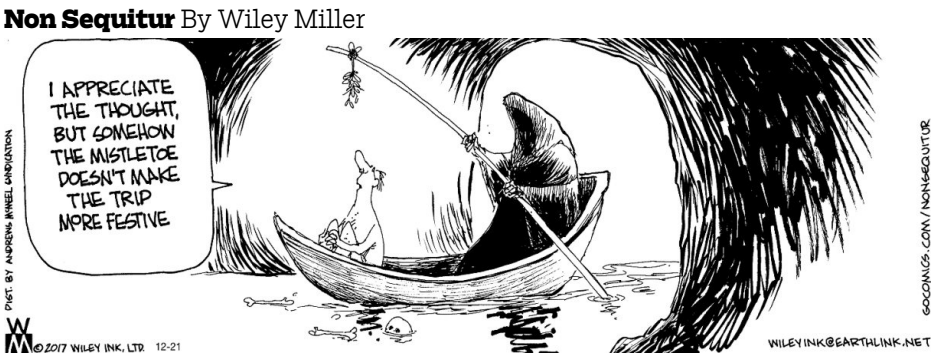
DIDDLY DUM-DE DUM
ZERO IS SO EASYGOING
I'M SURE HE HAS WORRIES
©2021 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
OH, GOSH! I WAS AFRAID THAT BAD OL' PUDDY TAT WOULD EAT LITTLE TWEETY BIRD!
GREG + MORT WALKER
12/21

Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne

I'VE NOTICED A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH THE CHANGE IN SEASONS...
HiandLois.com
©2021 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
MY KNEES ARE A LOT LESS SCRATCHED THAN IN THE SUMMER.
ERIC REAVES
12-21

Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne

Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller


I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, BUT SOMEHOW THE MISTLETOE DOESN'T MAKE THE TRIP MORE FESTIVE
DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION
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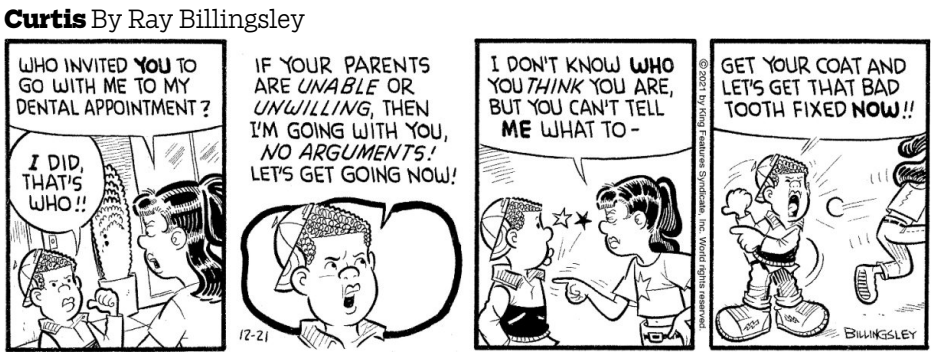
WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET
GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR

Curtis By Ray Billingsley


WHO INVITED YOU TO GO WITH ME TO MY DENTAL APPOINTMENT?
I DID, THAT'S WHO!!
IF YOUR PARENTS ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING, THEN I'M GOING WITH YOU, NO ARGUMENTS! LET'S GET GOING NOW!
12-21
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE, BUT YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO-
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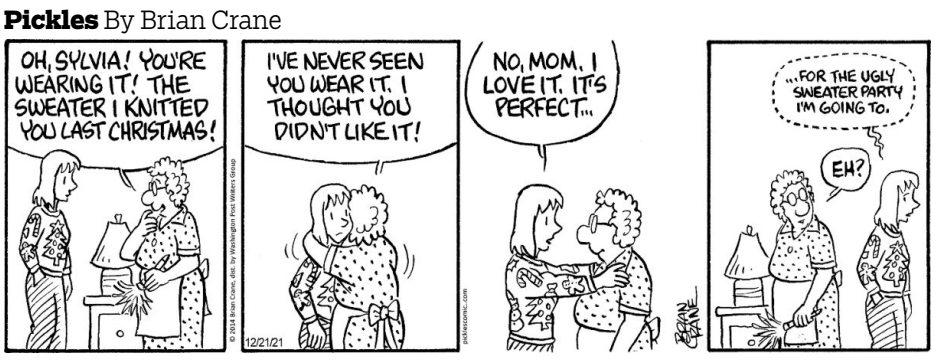
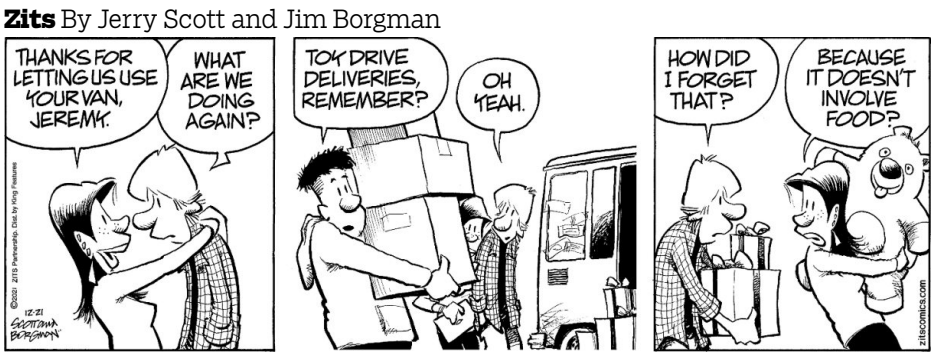
GET YOUR COAT AND LET'S GET THAT BAD TOOTH FIXED NOW!!
BILLINGSLEY

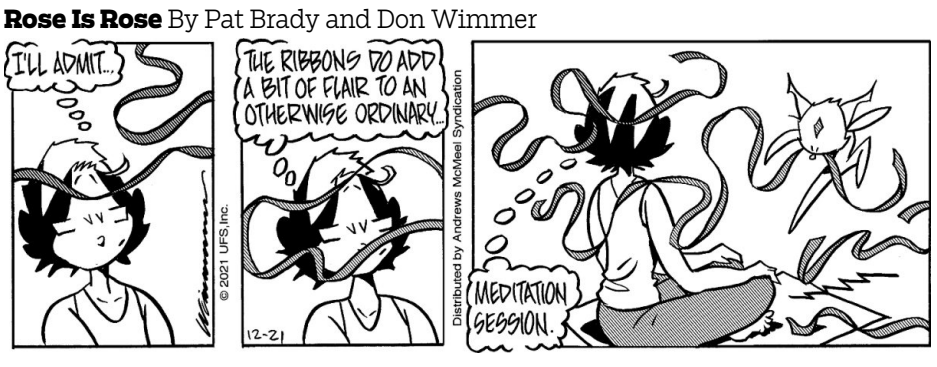
Pickles By Brian Crane


OH, SYLVIA! YOU'RE WEARING IT! THE SWEATER I KNITTED YOU LAST CHRISTMAS!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU WEAR IT. I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT!
12/21/21
NO, MOM. I LOVE IT. IT'S PERFECT...
...FOR THE UGLY SWEATER PARTY I'M GOING TO.
EH?

Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman


THANKS FOR LETTING US USE YOUR VAN, JEREMY.
WHAT ARE WE DOING AGAIN?
TOY DRIVE DELIVERIES, REMEMBER?
OH YEAH.
HOW DID I FORGET THAT?
BECAUSE IT DOESN'T INVOLVE FOOD?
zitscomics.com

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer


I'LL ADMIT...
THE RIBBONS DO ADD A BIT OF FLAIR TO AN OTHERWISE ORDINARY...
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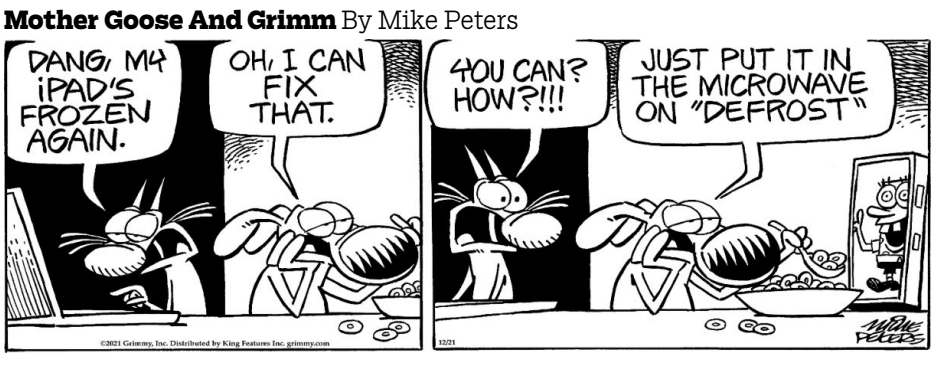
Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters


DANG, MY iPAD'S FROZEN AGAIN.
OH, I CAN FIX THAT.
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YOU CAN? HOW?!!!
JUST PUT IT IN THE MICROWAVE ON "DEFROST"
12/21

CROSSWORD

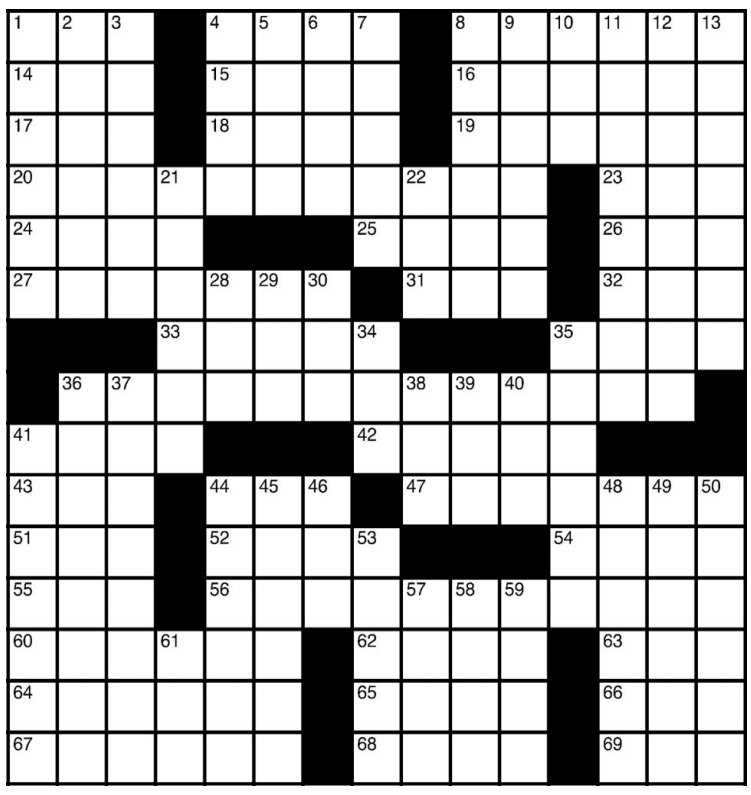
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 *With 4-Across, researcher's wear
4 *See 1-Across
8 Nested newborns' noises
14 Be off
15 Major employer?
16 Like some quaint lamps
17 "Get it?"
18 Back
19 Old-fashioned type
20 *Briefs alternative
23 Soccer cheer
24 Lena of "Riviera"
25 Feast with poi
26 50 Cent piece, e.g.
27 Send-ups
31 Sixth sense: Abbr.
32 2021 World Series champs: Abbr.
33 Relish
35 "Garfield" dog
36 *Jewel-encrusted film noir title bird
41 Curly cabbage
42 Vocally twangy
43 Nothing
44 Pound sound
47 Buffet with guacamole and salsa
51 Chekov's early "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
52 Give (out) sparingly
54 Musical finale
55 CPR expert
56 *Sock hop attire
60 Seize, as an opportunity
62 __ proprietor
63 Poe's "Annabel __"
64 Infuriate
65 Latin 101 verb
66 Finish
67 Checked for prints
68 With 69-Across, Iditarod front-runner ... and a hint to the answers to starred clues
69 See 68-Across

Down

1 Sappho's island home
2 Anatomical ring
3 Secession approved in a 2016 U.K. referendum
4 Three-time Grammy-winning singer Vikki
5 Valuable minerals
6 Asian nurse
7 Alpine region in Italy and Austria
8 Sportscaster Bob with 29 Emmys
9 Asks (for), as a loan
10 "Evil Woman" rock gp.
11 Legendary city of gold
12 Jargon with words ending in -ay
13 Church feature
21 Strand at sea
22 Poe's __ Morgue
28 Backstabber
29 Christmas __
30 Aptly palindromic ABBA hit
34 "The Last Jedi" villain Kylo
35 The end of time?
36 Top-level computer list
37 Elite athletes
38 Lucrative, as a contract
39 Smart-whip link
40 Europe's __ de Genève
41 Prepared for a proposal
44 Common Sunday newspaper insert
45 Supported from the bleachers, with "for"
46 Progressive spokeswoman
48 Heated to bubbling
49 Glandular prefix
50 Like family-friendly films
53 '50s Ford failure
57 "You snooze, you __"
58 "Frozen II" sister
59 Gardener's purchase
61 Tom Brady, before he became a Buc



By Kurt Krauss — Tribune Content Agency 12/21/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 7
♥ J
♦ K J 9 4
♣ A K Q 8 5 2

WEST
♠ K 2
♥ A 9 7 2
♦ 10 8 5
♣ 10 6 4 3

EAST
♠ A J 10 9 8 4 3
♥ 4
♦ 6 3 2
♣ 9 7

SOUTH
♠ 6 5
♥ K Q 10 8 6 5 3
♦ A Q 7
♣ J

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	3 ♠	4 ♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

The right play at the right time

Assume you're West defending against four hearts following the auction shown. You lead the king of spades, which holds as East plays the jack, and the question is what you should do next.

Remember, all you see is your own hand and the dummy.

There is a real danger that you might relax at this point and mechanically lead another spade. If you followed this impulse, though, it would cost you dearly.

East would win the second spade with the ace, but no return by him could then defeat the contract.

His best play would be a third round of spades, but declarer would ruff low in his hand, and, whatever you did on this trick, your only other winner would be the ace of trump.

The proper play at trick two is to cash the ace of hearts before leading a spade. When East takes his ace and continues with a third spade, South cannot prevent your nine of trump from becoming the setting trick, regardless of whether he ruffs high or low. The recommended play is thus certain to beat the contract unless East started with eight spades rather than seven.

Upon reflection, cashing the ace at trick two stands out a mile, but it is admittedly not an easy play to see unless you are totally focused at the critical moment.

Tomorrow: Nowhere to hide.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THALC

WSOHE

DUELSG

GANROD

We are the only college to have our earth pit on campus.
That's why I chose to come here.
12/21
THE COLLEGE OFFERED EARTH SCIENCE PROGRAMS THAT WERE CONSIDERED TO BE ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) - ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CLOWN ABATE EXHALE SNEEZE
Answer: She was learning to use Microsoft's spreadsheet program and thought it was — EXCELLENT

TODAY'S SUDOKU

	5			3		1		
			9					
3	6				7			
	7		6	8			4	
1		9				3		
	4			7	1		2	
			1		8		6	3
					2			
		4		9			5	

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

3	8	2	6	9	7	4	5	1
7	6	1	4	5	2	3	8	9
9	5	4	3	1	8	2	7	6
1	9	6	5	7	4	8	2	3
8	7	3	9	2	1	6	4	5
4	2	5	8	6	3	9	1	7
2	1	9	7	4	6	5	3	8
6	4	8	1	3	5	7	9	2
5	3	7	2	8	9	1	6	4

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

P	R	E	P		M	A	M	A			P	A	N	T
R	O	M	E		A	S	I	F		U	L	C	E	R
O	B	I	T		Y	E	L	L		P	U	T	T	Y
P	O	L	A	R	I	C	E	C	A	P	S			
S	T	Y	L	E				I	N	S		S	I	S
			S	T	A	T	I	O	N	A	G	E	N	T
A	D	D			N	I	L			L	E	N	T	O
B	R	A	N	D	Y	A	L	E	X	A	N	D	E	R
B	A	N	T	U			I	K	E			S	L	Y
I	N	T	H	E	L	O	N	G	R	U	N			
E	K	E		T	A	D				P	O	R	T	S
			M	I	D	D	L	E	S	C	H	O	O	L
M	A	D	A	M		M	A	X	I		E	D	G	E
E	X	I	L	E		A	V	I	D		L	E	A	P
W	E	N	T			N	A	T	E		P	O	S	T

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer

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Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters

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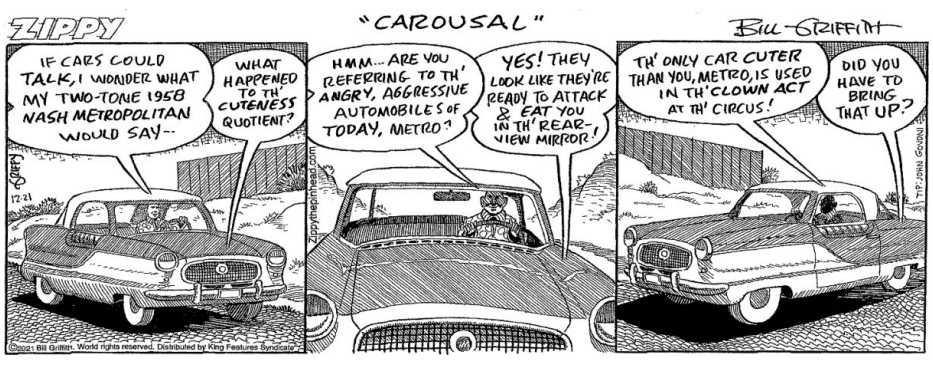
ZIPPY "CAROUSAL" Bill Griffith


IF CARS COULD TALK, I WONDER WHAT MY TWO-TONE 1958 NASH METROPOLITAN WOULD SAY--
WHAT HAPPENED TO TH' CUTENESS QUOTIENT?
HMM... ARE YOU REFERRING TO TH' ANGRY, AGGRESSIVE AUTOMOBILES OF TODAY, METRO?
YES! THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE READY TO ATTACK & EAT YOU IN TH' REAR-VIEW MIRROR!
TH' ONLY CAR CUTER THAN YOU, METRO, IS USED IN TH' CLOWN ACT AT TH' CIRCUS!
DID YOU HAVE TO BRING THAT UP?
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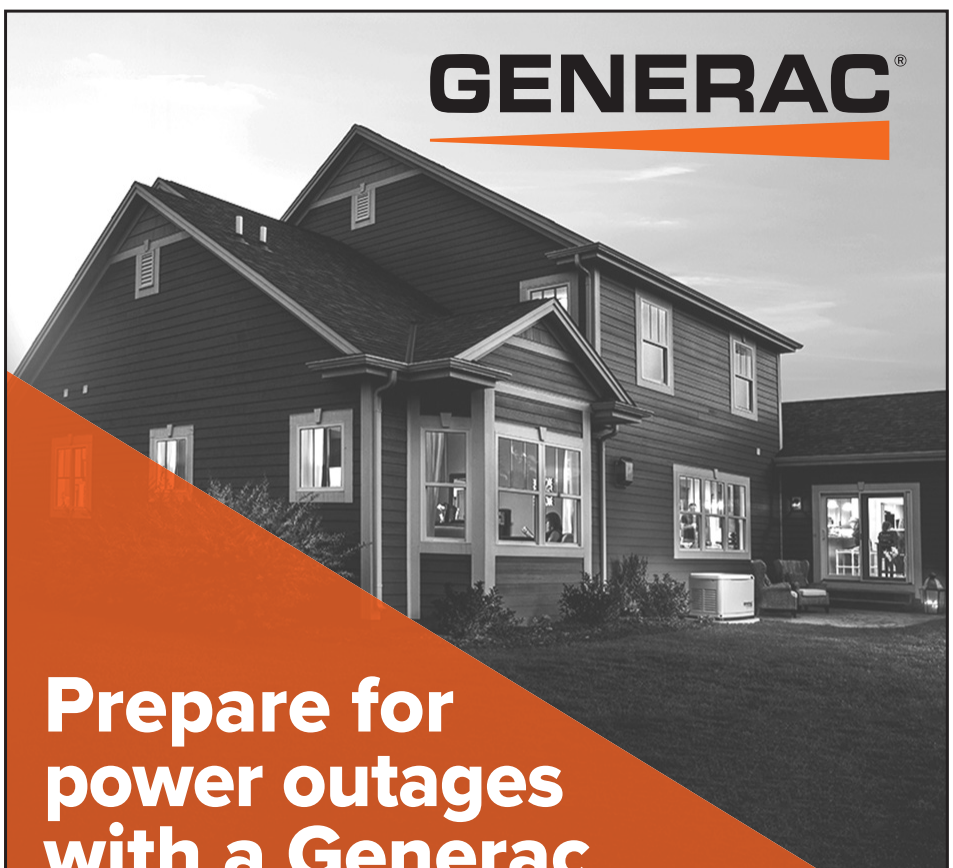

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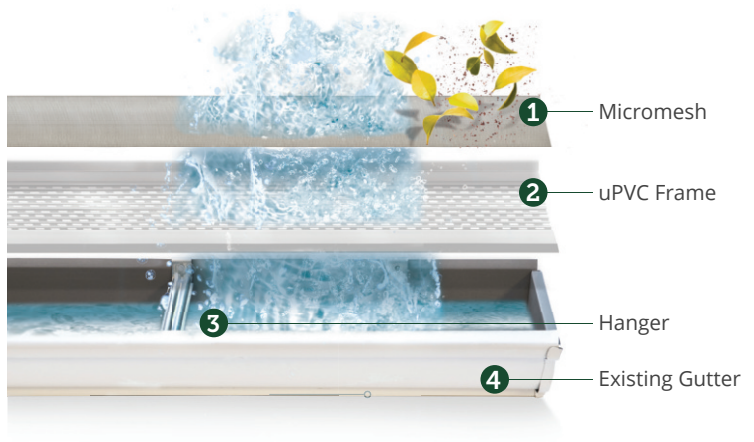

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Hartford Courant
SPORTS
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UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team could use lift from senior leaders

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

With nine of 31 regular season games under its belt, the No. 11 UConn women's basketball team enters the holiday break in a fascinating place: We're far enough along in the season to know what this team's strengths and weaknesses are, even with a healthy Paige Bueckers. But with Bueckers expected to be out until February, this team is still figuring out how to play — and in particular how to win against top competition — without her. If all goes to plan, the Huskies will soon add back into the rotation sophomore Nika Mühl and freshman Azzi Fudd, which should greatly help the team's backcourt.

Taking so much personnel/injury fluidity into account, what have we learned about the Huskies as they inch closer to the one-third mark of the regular season? Here are some things that come to mind:

Offensive execution a work in progress

Even when Bueckers was healthy, UConn's half-court offense was underwhelming. Turnovers have been a huge issue (Bueckers played in the two games in which the Huskies turned the ball over most), and often the mistakes seem totally unforced. The team was ineffective early on the offensive glass, though it has improved over the last few weeks.

A large portion of the Huskies' offensive issues can be attributed to their dearth of perimeter threats: UConn is shooting just 31.8% from the 3-point arc (even Bueckers hadn't found a rhythm from deep yet with a 31.0% clip). The injured Fudd is the only player shooting

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Associated Press Top 25 poll

1. South Carolina (29 of 29 first-place votes)
2. Stanford
3. Louisville
4. Arizona
5. NC State
6. Maryland
7. Tennessee
8. Indiana
9. Michigan
10. Baylor
11. UConn
12. Texas
13. Georgia
13. Iowa State
15. Iowa
16. Duke
17. Georgia Tech
18. USF
19. BYU
20. Notre Dame
21. LSU
22. Kentucky
23. Texas A&M
24. Ohio State
25. North Carolina

■ More on poll, **Page 4**

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies unranked as Eagles loom

Hurley's crew falls out of Top 25 poll after loss to Providence

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

UConn (10-3, 0-1) heads on the road to take on Big East foe Marquette (8-4, 0-1) on Tuesday night at the Fiserv Forum. The Huskies, coming off a 57-53 loss to Providence on Saturday, fell out of the AP Top 25 in the latest men's college basketball poll released Monday.

Marquette is coming off an 80-71 loss to Xavier on Saturday, which was the Big East opener for both teams.

Providence entered the AP poll at No. 22 after its win over UConn.

"We knew coming on the road would be a challenge for us. I was proud of our players' preparation," Providence coach Ed Cooley said. "They did a really good job paying attention to detail and understanding the importance of a Big East game."

Senior guard Tyrese Martin returned to UConn's starting lineup Saturday after a four-game absence due to a wrist injury. He started off rusty but settled down in the second half. He finished with 15 points and five rebounds.

UConn missed Adama Sanogo on offense against Providence. The sophomore, out with an abdominal strain, was a game-time decision but ultimately missed his fourth straight game. Without Sanogo, the Huksies shot just 31.1% from the field, the worst shooting percentage all season. The offense failed to create a lot of easy looks, which led to rushed, off-balance shots. The open shots they did have the Huskies failed to convert many of them.

There have been no updates regarding Sanogo's injury, and it looks to be another game-time decision.

UConn faces a very young Marquette team that is not only starting three freshmen, but has a first-year coach in Shaka Smart. Guard Greg Elliott has been red-hot for Marquette off the bench, totaling 40 points in the last two games in just 27 minutes per game. He had a career-high 22 points against UCLA, then followed that up with 18 points against Xavier.

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

Up next

UConn at Marquette
9 p.m., FS1

■ Capsule preview, **Page 4**

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Bristol Central's Donovan Clingan looks for room to shoot against East Catholic's Rob Elliott in the first half Monday night at the Mohegan Sun Arena.
CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

An elementary bond

Donovan Clingan and Victor Rosa go way back, and they're looking ahead to UConn

UNCASVILLE — The best high school basketball and football players in the state became the best of friends just the way you'd imagine.

Dom Amore

Playing baseball.

"We go way back, way back to T-ball, McCabe-Waters [Little League]," Victor Rosa said. "Elementary school together, growing up, hanging out in the same neighborhood."

Who was the better hitter?

"Definitely me," Rosa said, ignoring the smirk on Donovan Clingan's face. "We used to have competition in Little League, who would hit the most home runs."

An hour before their game at Mohegan

Turn to Amore, Page 2

Bristol Central players, from left, Treshawn Blair, Carson Rivoira and Donovan Clingan celebrate in the final seconds of their victory East Catholic at the Mohegan Sun Arena. CLOE POISSON / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Bristol Central throttles East Catholic 74-59 in The Day Holiday Classic

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

UNCASVILLE — Sometimes you get your rebounding prowess from your mother. For Bristol Central's Donovan Clingan, grabbing his 17th rebound was extra special. Not only did he set the overall record for Bristol Central with 1,033 rebounds, but he took the record away from former Bristol Central star Stacey Porrini Clingan, his mother who died from breast cancer in 2018.

On Monday night, the UConn commit was in complete control finishing with 29 points, 17 rebounds, and six blocks in a 74-59 victory over East Catholic in The Day Holiday Classic at Mohegan Sun Arena.

"I knew coming into this game I was about 17 rebounds away. My goal was to get that 17th

Turn to Classic, Page 2

Safety Tip of the Day

Power strips occasionally generate a significant amount of heat and any flammable material (like newspaper, Kleenex or rag) close to them should be removed as they can easily catch fire.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT
Patriots: Bills, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Giants: at Eagles, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: Jaguars, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: at Marquette, Tuesday, 9 p.m.; at Xavier, Dec. 28, 7 p.m.; Butler (XL), Jan. 1, 4 p.m.
UConn WBB: Marquette (XL), Dec. 29, 7 p.m.; at DePaul, Dec. 31, 2 p.m.; at Georgetown, Jan. 5, 7 p.m.
Celtics: Cavaliers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Bucks, Saturday, 2:30 p.m.; at Timberwolves, Monday, 8 p.m.
Knicks: Pistons, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Wizards, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Hawks, Saturday, noon
Nets: at Trail Blazers, Thursday, 10 p.m.; at Lakers, Saturday, 8 p.m.; at Clippers, Sunday, 10:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Harvard, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Bruins: Penguins, Monday, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m.; Sabres, Jan. 1, 1 p.m.
Rangers: Red Wings, Monday, 7 p.m.; at Panthers, Dec. 29, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Bridgeport, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Bridgeport, Dec. 29, 7 p.m.; Providence, Dec. 31, 3 p.m.

TV/RADIO
BASKETBALL
2 p.m.: G League Winter Showcase Motor City vs Oklahoma City. (Live) ESPNU
3 p.m.: G League Winter Showcase Rio Grande Valley vs Maine. (Live) NBA
5 p.m.: G League Winter Showcase South Bay vs Delaware. (Live)
7 p.m.: Appalachian St. at North Carolina. (Live) ACC
7 p.m.: Xavier at Villanova. (Live) FS1
7 p.m.: Elon at Arkansas. (Live) SEC
7 p.m.: Women's Stanford at South Carolina. (Live) ESPN2
7:30 p.m.: Pistons at Knicks. (Live) MSG
7:30 p.m.: Pacers at Heat. (Live) TNT
9 p.m.: Kansas at Colorado. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: UConn at Marquette. (Live) FS1
9 p.m.: G League Winter Showcase Santa Cruz vs Lakeland. (Live) ESPNEWS
9:30 p.m.: G League Winter Showcase Salt Lake City vs. Cleveland. (Live) NBA
10:30 p.m.: Suns at Lakers. (Live) TNT
12:30 a.m.: G League Winter Showcase Westchester vs Ciudad de Mexico. (Live) NBA
FOOTBALL
3:30 p.m.: Famous Idaho Potato Bowl Kent St. vs. Wyoming. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: Washington at Eagles or Seahawks at Rams. (Live) FOX
7:30 p.m.: Frisco Bowl UTSA vs. San Diego St. (Live) ESPN

GIANTS

Season over for QB Jones

By Tom Canavan
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants are shutting down quarterback Daniel Jones for the remainder of the season because of a sprained neck.

Coach Joe Judge said Monday the team's medical staff reviewed Jones' medical scans over the past 24 hours and determined it would be best if he did not play in the team's final three games.

The doctors have said Jones only needs rest at this point to get over the injury. Surgery is not an option at this point, Judge said, adding the injury is nothing more than a sprained neck. He said the team's sole concern was Jones' health.

"I've been adamant in saying that with all the information we've been given from the doctors involved and the medical team that there is no, at this moment, concern for a long-term injury," Judge said.

"This is more of a precautionary measure to make sure it's something that isn't aggravated or agitated before it's healed and it doesn't turn into something as chronic or long term."

Jones, the No. 6 overall pick in the 2019 draft, was hurt Nov. 28 on a run against the Philadelphia Eagles at MetLife Stadium.

When the Giants were in California to play the Chargers on Dec. 12, Jones was examined by Dr. Robert Watkins of the Marina Spine Center at Marina Del Rey Hospital. He returned to New York City and was then seen by Dr. Frank Cammisa of Hospital for Special Surgery.

Ronnie Barnes, the Giants' senior vice president of medical services, said Jones still has not been cleared for contact.

"We felt the prudent decision was to place Daniel on injured reserve for the remainder of the season. With continued rest and treatment, we expect a full recovery," Barnes said.

Jones, who has practiced with the team on a limited basis since being hurt, was not made available for comment Monday.

The Giants (4-10) will face the Eagles on Sunday in Philadelphia. Judge said either veteran Mike Glennon or Jake Fromm would start.

Glennon has started the past three games with Jones out. New York has lost all three, including a 21-6 loss to the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday. Fromm made his NFL regular-season debut on the Giants' final series and moved the team 84 yards before the drive ended on downs at the Cowboys 9.

The Patriots' loss to the Colts on Saturday was so disconcerting that coach Bill Belichick apologized Monday for being curt with reporters after the game. **ZACH BOLINGER/AP**

PATRIOTS

Coming up short

Sloppy loss makes Belichick (even more) grouchy

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

What's more surprising than Bill Belichick's team making sloppy mistakes? How about the longtime Patriots coach apologizing for his surly attitude in the postgame media availability.

The "on to Cincinnati" meme-maker told reporters on Monday that he was sorry for being curt after the 27-17 loss to the Indianapolis Colts that dropped New England from the No. 1 seed in the AFC. Belichick's answers on Saturday night ranged from surly to argumentative, but the new week brought a new attitude.

"Look, fellas. I apologize. I seemed like I was a little short with you after the game," Belichick said. "Not really trying to be short, but honestly, there wasn't too much to say. I don't know there's a whole lot more to say now, but it's not your fault. It was a frustrating game."

The Patriots had won seven in a row to propel themselves to the top of the conference, but things fell apart quickly in Indianapolis.

New England was pushed around on the Colts' first possession, with Jonathan Taylor running six straight times for 33 yards to help set up a touchdown. Then Indianapolis blocked a punt and recovered it in the end zone to make it 14-0.

A field goal made it 17-0 before Mac Jones was picked off after driving New England to the Indianapolis 15 at the end of the first half. Jones threw his second interception to start the second half, setting up the Colts' 46-yard field goal attempt; it missed, but an offside penalty gave them another chance, which was successful to give Indianapolis a 20-0 lead.

In all, the Patriots committed eight penalties, including three false starts, and another that got Kyle Duggar kicked out of the game.

So it's no wonder that Belichick, never a ray of sunshine, was especially grouchy. Asked about Taylor, who finished with 170 yards, Belichick said, "I've said it like five times, I could just say it another five times. We didn't do anything well enough to win tonight, including giving up 225 yards rushing."

The loss cost the Patriots pole position for the conference's No. 1 seed and a first-round bye. Next up: Buffalo, their closest pursuer in the AFC East.

"If we don't handle it well, it'll be our season," defensive back Devin McCourty said.

Injury report: LB Ja'Whaun Bentley injured his ankle and WR Nelson Agholor went out with a possible concussion.

JETS

Porous defense continues to get run over

By Dennis Waszak Jr.
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The inability to stop the run has been the running theme for the New York Jets' defense this season.

Teams know they can use their ground game effectively against them, so they pound the football over and over — daring the Jets to stop them.

So when Duke Johnson — Miami's fourth-string running back — gouged New York for a career-high 107 yards and two touchdowns in the Dolphins' 31-24 victory Sunday, it was just another embarrassing performance to add to the growing list for the 3-11 Jets.

"We just can't allow that leaky yardage," defensive tackle Sheldon Rankins said Monday. "Also, there were not enough negative (yardage) plays. We've got to be able to keep teams in behind-the-sticks situations, create some negative tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

"When you're unable to do that throughout the course of the game and you allow teams to constantly gain yards, they're eventually going to pop one."

Such as the 30-yard run by Myles Gaskin that helped set up the go-ahead touchdown midway through the fourth quarter.

"They were able to get into a rhythm with their run game," Rankins said, "and we've just got to be better collectively overall in a few areas."

The Dolphins finished with 183 yards rushing against the Jets, who allowed 203 yards rushing to New Orleans in their previous game and 185 to a banged-up Philadelphia squad before that.

The inability to stop the run — New York's defense entered the weekend ranked 29th in the NFL — has allowed opponents to sustain long drives.

Injury report: S Elijah Riley, carted off the field with a neck injury, is in the concussion protocol. "He checked out really good at the hospital (Sunday) and we're optimistic he'll be able to return this season," Saleh said. "Hopefully this week." ... Saleh said DL Quinnen Williams "looks good" after aggravating a shoulder injury and the team is optimistic about his chances of playing. ... Fant (knee) could return this week. ... TE Ryan Griffin is dealing with a knee injury. "It's not looking good for this week," Saleh said. ... DE John Franklin-Myers, WR Vyncint Smith and S Sharrod Neasman tested positive and were placed on the COVID-19 list, along with practice squad defensive lineman Tanzel Smart and cornerback Lamar Jackson.

Dolphins running back Duke Johnson stiff-arms Jets cornerback Brandin Echols during Sunday's game in Miami Gardens, Florida. **DOUG MURRAY/AP**

Classic

from Page 1

rebound," Clingan said. "It means a lot to me."

It was an emotional moment for Clingan when he captured the record.

"Just to be up there next to my mom, she inspires me every day. She motivated me when she was here to be the best person and best athlete I can be," Clingan said. "I want to do what she wanted me to do and work my butt of to make it to the next level."

From the opening tip, Clingan's presence was all over the court from soft finishes around the rim to devastating blocks that had East Catholic players afraid to drive to the hoop.

At one point in the first quarter, Clingan scored 12 straight points in the post. At the end of the first quarter, Clingan had 12 points, five rebounds, and one block. In fact until the last 30 seconds of the first quarter, he and Damion Gasper were the only ones to score for Bristol Central.

East Catholic tried to throw everything they had at Clingan, including multiple double teams, rotating big men, and more. Clingan handled it all with ease aside from a brief cold spell in the third quarter, but in typical fashion, he got hot. He finished with seven points the quarter while sitting out the last four minutes.

Gasper played a support role along side Clingan, canning multiple 3s from the corners, which East Catholic seemed to have no answer for. If they went to double Clingan in the post, then Gasper was open, and vice-versa. It was night of pick your poison between them, and it made for a long night for East Catholic.

Gasper hit a buzzer-beater 3 at the end of the third quarter that gave Bristol Central a 55-40 lead. He had 19 points entering the fourth after making five 3-pointers.

In the fourth quarter, Bristol Central cruised to victory.

Sam Riley led East Catholic with 11 points.

Online
More high school coverage at c**ourant.com/sports**

Amore

from Page 1

Sun Arena, Clingan and Rosa sat in the stands with their Bristol Central basketball teammates, watching the first game of The Day Holiday Tournament, and passed the time the way they usually do — giving each other the business. What are friends for?

"He can't shoot," says Clingan, the Gatorade player of the year as a junior, as Rosa rolls his eyes. "He says he can shoot, but he can't."

Clingan, though, adds that Rosa's a "dog" on defense, so quick with his hands and feet.

"I have them in [advanced placement] class, too," said Bristol Central coach Tim Barrette, "and they just needle each other non-stop, but it's all in good fun. Because of their status as athletes, they hold each other accountable, which is nice, because it's hard when you're the average athlete. They're not the average athlete, so they're able to hold each other accountable in the classroom and on the basketball court."

Barrette's not above adding a little gas to the friendly fire.

"They've been friends since they were tiny," he said. "Victor used to beat up on Donovan, when Donovan wasn't as big."

Clingan: "That's what he thinks, but he's too weak to beat on me."

Clingan, a 7-foot-1 center, is the basketball star, Rosa, 5-11, plays basketball and track, but it's football for him. Both will be headed to UConn next season, where the fun will be just beginning.

"I like to make fun of him because he's short," Clingan said. "I call him weak even though he's obviously not."

Monday they joined forces against East Catholic, the Rams winning 74-59. Rosa had two points, nine rebounds and four assists. Whenever one has to be told what he needs to hear, not what he wants to hear, who better to deliver the message than the other?

"He pushed me to be the best player, and I pushed him, too," Clingan said. "He's a worker, he loves to work. He's always been there for me when I've needed him, and I'll always be there for him. He's the best friend anyone can ask for. He's a person I can always count on."

They grew up in the same corner of Bristol. Their parents became friends. They have been there for each other through good times and bad, and in their young lives there has been both. When Clingan lost his mother, Stacey Porrini Clingan, a beloved teacher in town after her long fight with breast cancer in 2018, Rosa was there at his side, making sure Donovan got out of the house and kept pursuing his goals.

Clingan scored 29 points and got the 17 rebounds he needed Monday to reach 1,033 and break his mother's school record.

"Everything from practice to hanging outside of school, if I see him and his body language acting up, I correct him," Rosa said. "And in the little things, he helps me. We try to help each other as much as possible, and do what's best for both of us."

As Clingan has chased his mother's records at Bristol Central, Rosa has been there in the backcourt to get him the ball.

"Victor has done a great job of realizing this is Donovan's team," Barrette said. "Donovan, in the off-season, is able to spend a lot more time with these guys because he's not playing another sport. Victor is all about getting Donovan the ball. Donovan is our leader, but Victor takes that role as a catalyst."

Clingan, who had been getting scholarship offers since his freshman year, was there as a sounding board as Rosa's football star rose and offers began to come in. Last July, Clingan chose UConn and Rosa, Gatorade football player of the year, followed shortly thereafter, but the coaching change made things more complicated.

"I knew he was going to UConn before he announced it," Clingan said, "just knowing that in back of my head, to have a close friend like that on campus would be so helpful. When coach [Randy] Edsall left, he was second-guessing himself, but I always hold him this is the school. Everyone's going to love us; it's in state; it's going to help us in the future with just our brand. It's going to be fun."

Once Rosa met new football coach Jim Mora, he chose to stay the course. So Clingan will be in Dan Hurley's frontcourt, and Rosa will be a running back, receiver, returner, and the Bristol bromance UConn never dreamed it needed will travel to Storrs.

"It's great to see that we're both doing our thing in each other's sports and we're living out our dreams together. Now, we'll be going to the same school together. It's just a blessing."

"Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	21	9	.700	—
Boston	15	15	.500	6
Philadelphia	15	15	.500	6
Toronto	14	15	.483	6 ½
New York	13	17	.433	8

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	18	13	.581	—
Washington	16	15	.516	2
Charlotte	16	16	.500	2 ½
Atlanta	14	15	.483	3
Orlando	6	25	.194	12

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	18	10	.643	—
Cleveland	19	12	.613	½
Milwaukee	19	13	.594	1
Indiana	13	18	.419	6 ½
Detroit	5	24	.172	13 ½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	19	12	.613	—
Dallas	14	15	.483	4
San Antonio	11	18	.379	7
Houston	10	20	.333	8 ½
New Orleans	10	21	.323	9

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	20	9	.690	—
Denver	15	14	.517	5
Minnesota	15	15	.500	5 ½
Portland	13	18	.419	8
Oklahoma City	9	19	.321	10 ½

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	24	5	.828	—
Golden State	24	6	.800	½
L.A. Clippers	16	14	.533	8 ½
L.A. Lakers	16	15	.516	9
Sacramento	13	18	.419	12

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia at Boston, late
Houston at Chicago, late
Oklahoma City at Memphis, late
Charlotte at Utah, late
Sacramento at Golden State, late
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, late
Orlando at Toronto, ppd

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Detroit at New York, 7:30p.m.
Indiana at Miami, 7:30p.m.
Washington at Brooklyn, ppd
Portland at New Orleans, 8p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Sacramento 121, San Antonio 114
Detroit 100, Miami 90
Portland 105, Memphis 100
Phoenix 137, Charlotte 106
Chicago 115, L.A. Lakers 110
Minnesota 111, Dallas 105
New Orleans at Philadelphia, ppd
Cleveland at Atlanta, ppd
Denver at Brooklyn, ppd

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL FAVORITE	LINE	TUESDAY UNDERDOG
at East Carolina	12½	Southern Miss.
at Illinois State	8½	UTSA
at Mississippi	14½	Samford
at La Salle	E	Drexel
at CS Bakersfield	4	Dartmouth
North Texas	4½	at Tulsa
at North Carolina	15	Appalachian St.
at Toledo	4	Marshall
at Michigan	23	Fort Wayne
at Ball State	12	Eastern Illinois
at Buffalo	5½	UC Irvine
at Cincinnati	16½	Tennessee Tech
at Villanova	5½	Xavier
at Iowa State	26½	Chicago State
at Arkansas	18½	Elon
at SMU	14½	Evansville
at Utah	2½	Fresno State
Morehead State	13½	at IUPUI
at NC State	10	Wright State
at Alabama	8	Davidson
at Iona	5½	Delaware
Michigan State	11½	at Oakland
Bradley	3	at Sam Houston
at Tarleton St.	6½	Air Force
at S. ALABAMA	11	SIU Edwardsville
at Georgia Tech	5½	Georgia State
UConn	2	at Marquette
Kanss	9	at Colorado
at Washington	4½	Utah Valley
at Oregon	14½	Pepperdine
at Utah State	19	Portland St.
at Nevada	5½	Grand Canyon
Santa Clara	6½	at San Jose State
at Calif. Baptist	9½	SE Missouri St.

NBA FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	TUESDAY UNDERDOG
at New York	9½	(206½)	Detroit
at Miami	E	(208½)	Indiana
Portland	1½	(219)	at New Orleans
Minnesota	1	(212½)	at Dallas
Phoenix	7	(220½)	at LA Lakers

NHL FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	TUESDAY Line
at Pittsburgh	-280	New Jersey	+225
Washington	-118	at Philadelphia	-104
at Seattle	-205	Arizona	+172
at Vegas	-118	Tampa Bay	-102

COLLEGE FOOTBALL FAVORITE	SP	O/U	TUESDAY UNDERDOG
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl			
Wyoming	3	(59)	Kent State
Frisco Bowl			
UTSA	1½	(49)	San Diego St.
Armed Forces Bowl			**Wednesday**
Army	4	(57½)	Missouri
Frisco Football Classic			**Thursday**
Miami (Ohio)	3	(54½)	North Texas
Gasparilla Bowl			
Florida	6½	(56½)	UCF
Hawaii Bowl			**Friday**
Memphis	8½	(56)	Hawaii
Camellia Bowl			**Saturday**
Georgia State	5	(50½)	Ball State
Quick Lane Bowl			**Monday**
W Michigan	6	(56)	Nevada
Military Bowl			
Boston College	3	(51½)	East Carolina
Birmingham Bowl			**Tuesday, Dec. 28**
Auburn	2½	(51½)	Houston
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl			
Louisville	1½	(55½)	Air Force
Liberty Bowl			
Mississippi St.	9	(59½)	Texas Tech
Holiday Bowl			
NC State	1	(60)	UCLA
Guaranteed Rate Bowl			
Minnesota	4	(45)	West Virginia
Fenway Bowl			**Wednesday, Dec. 29**
Virginia	2	(71)	SMU
Pinstripe Bowl			
Maryland	3	(55)	Virginia Tech
Cheez-It Bowl			
Clemson	1	(44)	Clemson
Alamo Bowl			
Oklahoma	4½	(61½)	Oregon
Duke's Mayo Bowl			**Thursday, Dec. 30**
North Carolina	9	(58½)	South Carolina
Music City Bowl			
Tennessee	4½	(63)	Purdue
Peach Bowl			
Michigan State	2½	(57)	Pittsburgh
Las Vegas Bowl			
Wisconsin	7	(42)	Arizona State
Gator Bowl			**Friday, Dec. 31**
Texas A&M	5	(58)	Wake Forest
Sun Bowl			
Miami	2½	(59)	Wash. St.
Arizona Bowl			
Boise State	8	(55½)	C. Michigan
CFP Semifinal Cotton Bowl Classic			
Alabama	13½	(58)	Cincinnati
CFP Semifinal Orange Bowl			
Georgia	8	(47)	Michigan
Outback Bowl			**Saturday, Jan. 1**
Penn State	2	(47)	Arkansas
Fiesta Bowl			
Notre Dame	2	(45½)	Oklahoma St.
Citrus Bowl			
Kentucky	2½	(44)	Iowa
Rose Bowl			
Pasadena, Calif.			
Ohio State	6½	(66)	Utah
Sugar Bowl			
Baylor	E	(55)	Mississippi
Texas Bowl			**Tuesday, Jan. 4**
Kansas State	2½	(47)	LSU

NFL WEEK 16 FAVORITE	SP	O/U	THURSDAY UNDERDOG
San Francisco	3½	(44½)	at Tennessee
			SATURDAY
at Green Bay	7½	(45)	Cleveland
at Arizona	2	(49½)	Indianapolis
			SUNDAY
at New England	2½	(44½)	Buffalo
LA Rams	3	(49½)	at Minnesota
at Atlanta	3½	(43½)	Detroit
at Cincinnati	2½	(44½)	Baltimore
at Philadelphia	10	(42½)	NY Giants
Tampa Bay	11	(44)	at Carolina
at NY Jets	2½	(42)	Jacksonville
LA Chargers	9½	(46½)	at Houston
at Seattle	7	(43½)	Chicago
at Las Vegas	1½	(42½)	Denver
at Kansas City	10	(46½)	Pittsburgh
at Dallas	10	(47½)	Washington
			MONDAY
at New Orleans	3	(39)	Miami

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	29	19	6	4	42	94	77
Toronto	30	20	8	2	42	98	76
Florida	29	18	7	4	40	104	87
Detroit	31	15	13	3	33	88	104
Boston	26	14	10	2	30	71	69
Buffalo	30	10	15	5	25	82	104
Ottawa	28	9	17	2	20	79	101
Montreal	31	7	21	3	17	67	109
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	29	21	7	1	43	95	62
Washington	31	18	6	7	43	108	81
N.Y. Rangers	30	19	7	4	42	86	77
Pittsburgh	30	17	8	5	39	91	76
Columbus	28	14	13	1	29	91	95
Philadelphia	29	12	12	5	29	77	95
New Jersey	30	10	15	5	25	82	105
N.Y. Islanders	26	8	12	6	22	57	77

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Minnesota	29	19	8	2	40	108	85
Nashville	30	19	10	1	39	89	79
St. Louis	31	17	9	5	39	106	85
Colorado	27	17	8	2	36	115	91
Winnipeg	30	14	11	5	33	90	87
Dallas	28	14	12	2	30	75	81
Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97
Arizona	29	6	21	2	14	56	109
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Vegas	31	20	11	0	40	111	94
Anaheim	32	17	9	6	40	103	89
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62
Edmonton	29	18	11	0	36	101	90
Los Angeles	30	14	11	5	33	80	79
San Jose	30	15	14	1	31	78	85
Vancouver	31	14	15	2	30	81	90
Seattle	30	10	17	3	23	84	108

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Minnesota at Dallas, late
Columbus at Buffalo, ppd
Montreal at N.Y. Islanders, ppd
Colorado at Detroit, ppd
Anaheim at Edmonton, ppd

TUESDAY'S GAMES
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 10p.m.
Tampa Bay at Vegas, 10p.m.
Carolina at Boston, ppd
St. Louis at Ottawa, ppd
Winnipeg at Nashville, ppd
Florida at Chicago, ppd
Anaheim at Calgary, ppd
Vancouver at San Jose, ppd

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Vegas 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, SO
Winnipeg 4, St. Louis 2
Pittsburgh 3, New Jersey 2
Los Angeles 3, Washington 2
Boston at Ottawa, ppd
Nashville at Carolina, ppd
Toronto at Seattle, ppd
Arizona at Vancouver, ppd

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
1. Baylor (10-0) vs. Alcorn State. Next: vs. Northwestern S., Tuesday, Dec. 28.
2. Duke (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Wednesday.
3. Purdue (10-1) vs. Incarnate Word. Next: vs. Nicholls St., Wed., Dec. 29.
4. Gonzaga (9-2) vs. N. Arizona. Next: vs. North Alabama, Tuesday, Dec. 28.
5. UCLA (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Cal Poly, Tuesday.
6. Arizona (11-0) did not play. Next: at #19 Tennessee, Wednesday.
7. Kansas (9-1) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Tuesday.
8. Southern Cal (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona St., Thursday.
9. Iowa State (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Chicago State, Tuesday.
10. Alabama (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Davidson, Tuesday.
11. Michigan State (9-2) did not play. Next: at Oakland, Tuesday.
12. Auburn (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Murray State, Wednesday.
13. Houston (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Texas St., Wednesday.
14. Ohio State (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. New Orleans, Tuesday, Dec. 28.
15. Seton Hall (9-2) vs. St. John's, forfeit. Next: at DePaul, Thursday.
16. Texas (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Rice, Wednesday.
17.LSU (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Lipscomb, Wednesday.
18. Xavier (11-1) did not play. Next: at #23 Villanova, Tuesday.
19. Tennessee (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. #6 Arizona, Wednesday.
20. Kentucky (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Louisville, Wednesday.
21. Colorado St. (10-0) did not play. Next: at New Mexico, Tuesday, Dec. 28.
22. Providence (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Georgetown, Wednesday.
23. Villanova (7-4) did not play. Next: vs. #18 Xavier, Tuesday.
24. Wisconsin (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois State, Wednesday, Dec. 29..
#25 Texas Tech (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. E. Washington, Wednesday.

MONDAY'S SCORES
EAST
Berry 74, Albright 54
Ch. Newport 103, Washington & Lee 91
Daemen 74, Dist. of Columbia 64
DeSales 72, Muhlenberg 60
Pitt.-Bradford 94, Penn State Dubois 62
Pitt.-Greensburg 93, Franciscan 62
Post (Conn.) 65, St. Anselm 63
Scranton 84, Cabrini 80, OT
St. Mary's (Md.) 65, Marywood 48
SOUTH
Flagler 93, Young Harris 84
SC State 74, The Citadel 57
Southern Wesleyan 88, Barton 68
MIDWEST
Albion 81, Franklin 54
Dubuque 75, Roanoke 67
Hanover 85, Kalamazoo 59
Hillsdale 69, Northwood (Mich.) 55
Indiana St. 78, Oakland City 69
Kenyon 68, Waynesburg 49
SOUTHWEST
Cent. Arkansas 90, Hendrix 56
Texas Lutheran 71, Alma 58
WEST
Point Loma 121, Pacific (Ore.) 71
Wartburg 73, Baldwin Wallace 71

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
1 South Carolina (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. #2 Stanford, Tuesday.
2. Stanford (8-2) did not play. Next: at #1 South Carolina, Tuesday.
3. Louisville (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Boston Coll., Wednesday, Dec. 30.
4. Arizona (10-0) did not play. Next: at Southern Cal, Friday, Dec. 31.
5. NC State (11-2) did not play. Next: at Clemson, Thursday, Dec. 30.
6. Maryland (9-3) did not play. Next: at Coppin State, Tuesday.
7. Tennessee (10-1) beat ETSU 112-58. Next: vs. UT Chattanooga, Monday.
8. Indiana (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Wright State, Tuesday.
9. Michigan (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Eastern Michigan, Wednesday.
10. Baylor (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Houston Baptist, Wednesday, Dec. 29.
11. UConn (6-3) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Wednesday, Dec. 29.
12. Texas (8-1) did not play. Next: at Princeton, Wednesday.
13. Iowa State (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia, Sunday, Jan. 2.
13. Georgia (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. South Alabama, Tuesday.
15. Iowa (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. IUPUI, Tuesday.
16. Duke (8-1) did not play. Next: at Charleston Southern, Tuesday.
17. Georgia Tech (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Boston U., Tuesday.
18. South Florida (9-3) beat W. Virginia 77-55. Next: vs. Jacksonville, Dec. 29.
19. BYU (9-1) did not play. Next: at Montana State, Tuesday.
20. Notre Dame (10-2) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Wednesday.
21. LSU (10-1) beat Clemson 70-56. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Tuesday.
22. Kentucky (7-3) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Thursday, Dec. 30.
23. Texas A&M (10-2) beat UTSA 77-51. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Thursday, Dec. 30.
24. Ohio State (8-2) did not play. Next: at San Diego State, Tuesday.
25. North Carolina (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama State, Tuesday.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
New England	9	5	0	.643	367	227
Buffalo	8	6	0	.571	394	243
Miami	7	7	0	.500	285	312
e-N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	250	428
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT**	**PF**	**PA**
Tennessee	9	5	0	.643	337	309
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	398	300
e-Houston	3	11	0	.214	207	372
e-Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	196	370
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT**	**PF**	**PA**
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	334	315
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	369	303
Pittsburgh	7	6	1	.536	291	335
Cleveland	7	7	0	.500	292	305
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT**	**PF**	**PA**
Kansas City	10	4	0	.714	385	296
L.A. Chargers	8	6	0	.571	379	370
Las Vegas	7	7	0	.500	299	374
Denver	7	7	0	.500	285	243

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Dallas	10	4	0	.714	401	293
Philadelphia	6	7	0	.462	337	291
Washington	6	7	0	.462	266	324
N.Y. Giants	4	10	0	.286	238	331
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT**	**PF**	**PA**
Tampa Bay	10	4	0	.714	410	306
New Orleans	7	7	0	.500	313	285
Atlanta	6	8	0	.429	258	384
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	271	313
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	359	302
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	344	333
Chicago	4	9	0	.308	231	332
e-Detroit	2	11	1	.179	243	366
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT**	**PF**	**PA**
Arizona	10	4	0	.714	378	284
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	366	293
San Francisco	8	6	0	.571	360	314
Seattle	5	8	0	.385	272	262

e-eliminated; y-clinched division

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Las Vegas 16, Cleveland 14
Minnesota at Chicago, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Seattle at L.A. Rams, 7p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 7p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAME
San Francisco at Tennessee, 8:20p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Cleveland at Green Bay, 4:30p.m.
Indianapolis at Arizona, 8:15p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 26
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 1p.m.
Detroit at Atlanta, 1p.m.
Jacksonville at N.Y. Jets, 1p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Houston, 1p.m.
L.A. Rams at Minnesota, 1p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 1p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1p.m.
Chicago at Seattle, 4:05p.m.
Denver at Las Vegas, 4:25p.m.
Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 4:25p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 8:20p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 27
Miami at New Orleans, 8:15p.m.

LAS VEGAS 16, CLEVELAND 14

Las Vegas	**7**	**3**	**0**	**6**	**—**	**16**
Cleveland	**0**	**0**	**7**	**7**	**—**	**14**

First Quarter
Las: Edwards 5pass from Carr (D.Carlson kick), 3:41.
Second Quarter
Las: FG D.Carlson 24, :56.
Third Quarter
Cle: Chubb 4 run (McLaughlin kick), 4:33.
Fourth Quarter
Las: FG D.Carlson 40, 14:46.
Cle: Bryant 6pass from Mullens (McLaughlin kick), 3:45.
Las: FG D.Carlson 48, :00.

TEAM STATS	LVR	CLE
First downs	20	13
Total net yards	328	236
Rushes-yards	25-98	24-89
Passing	230	147
Punt returns	4-31	1-20
Kickoff returns	2-37	1-24
Interceptions ret.	0-0	1-7
Comp-att-int	25-38-1	20-30-0
Sacked-yards lost	2-6	0-0
Punts	4-44.25	7-44.714
Fumbles-lost	5-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	7-64	3-61
Time of possession	33:24	26:36

RUSHING: Las, Jacobs 15-52, Barber 5-34, Carr 3-7, Mariota 1-3, Leavitt 1-2. Cle, Chubb 23-91, D.Johnson 1-(-2).
PASSING: Las, Carr 25-38-1-236. Cle, Mullens 20-30-0-147.
RECEIVING: Las, Moreau 7-65, Jones 6-67, Jacobs 3-42, Renfrow 3-32, Edwards 3-8, Barber 1-12, Jackson 1-11, Helm 1-(-1). Cle, Peoples-Jones 4-48, D.Johnson 4-17, Njoku 3-29, Higgins 3-24, Felton 3-16, Bryant 2-11, Chubb 1-2.
MISSED FG: Cle, McLaughlin 47.

LATE SUNDAY:
NEW ORLEANS 9, TAMPA BAY 0

New Orleans	**3**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**—**	**9**
Tampa Bay	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**0**

First Quarter
NO: FG Maher 39, 5:44.
Second Quarter
NO: FG Maher 35, 14:55.
Fourth Quarter
NO: FG Maher 42, 7:28.

TEAM STATS	NO	TB
First downs	11	17
Total net yards	212	302
Rushes-yards	31-61	21-118
Passing	151	184
Punt returns	2-38	7-41
Kickoff returns	0-0	2-33
Interceptions ret.	2-1	0-0
Comp-att-int	13-27-0	26-48-1
Sacked-yards lost	2-3	4-30
Punts	9-45.778	8-42.0
Fumbles-lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-yards	6-41	3-30
Time of possession	29:45	30:15

RUSHING: New Orleans, Hill 11-33, Kamara 11-18, Ingram 9-10. Tampa Bay, Jones 8-63, Fournette 9-34, Vaughn 3-19, Brady 1-2.
PASSING: New Orleans, Hill 13-27-0-154. Tampa Bay, Brady 26-48-1-214.
RECEIVING: New Orleans, Callaway 6-112, Smith 2-17, Kamara 2-13, Ingram 2-8, Trautman 1-4. Tampa Bay, Fournette 7-33, Godwin 6-49, Johnson 4-41, Gronkowski 2-29, Brate 2-22, Miller 2-18, Jones 2-8, Evans 1-14.
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: New Orleans, Gardner-Johnson 6-1-0, Jordan 5-0-2, M.Williams 5-0-0, Lattimore 4-0-0, Davis 3-4-0, Davenport 3-0-1, Onyemata 2-4-1. Tampa Bay, David 8-3-1, Whitehead 5-3-0, Gholston 5-1-0, White 4-4-0, Tryon-Shoyinka 2-2-1, Vea 1-2-0, .
INTERCEPTIONS: New Orleans, Gardner-Johnson 1-1, Lattimore 1-0.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: Tampa Bay, Succop 45.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

UPCOMING BOWL GAMES
MONDAY'S RESULT
Myrtle Beach Bowl, Conway, S.C.
Tulsa 30, Old Dominion 17

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Famous Idaho Potato, Boise, Idaho
Kent St (7-6) vs. Wyoming (6-6), 3:30 p.m.
Frisco Bowl, Frisco, Texas
#24 UTSA (12-1) vs. S. Diego St. (11-2), 7p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Armed Forces Bowl, Fort Worth, Texas
Missouri (6-6) vs. Army (8-3), 8p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Frisco Football Classic, Frisco, Texas
Miami (7-5) vs. N. Texas (6-6), 3:30p.m.
Gasparilla Bowl, Tampa, Fla.
UCF (8-4) vs. Florida (6-6), 7p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAME
Hawaii Bowl, Honolulu
Memphis (6-6) vs. Hawaii (6-7), 8p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAME
Camellia Bowl, Montgomery, Ala.
Ball State (6-6) vs. Ga. St. (7-5), 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 27
Quick Lane Bowl
Nevada (8-4) vs. W. Mich. (7-5), 11a.m.
Military Bowl, Annapolis, Md.
Bos Coll. (6-6) vs. E. Carolina (7-5), 2:30 p.m.

The Warriors' Steve Kerr on the job ahead as coach of the United States men's basketball team: "Our goal, of course, is to win and make our country proud." **TIM NWACHUKWU/GETTY**

BASKETBALL

Kerr next to carry Team USA torch

Warriors coach takes over for Popovich ahead of '24 Olympics

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

Steve Kerr saw everything that Gregg Popovich went through as coach of the U.S. men's national team, saw exactly how difficult it was last summer for the Americans to emerge from the Tokyo Olympics with another gold medal.

And when he walked off the floor for the last time in Tokyo, he was drained.

"It wasn't easy," Kerr said.

It was just further proof that the days of U.S. cakewalks to gold are over. He decided to take the job anyway.

Kerr was formally announced as coach of the U.S. men's team on Monday in San Francisco, a not-very-well-kept secret in recent weeks that the Warriors coach would be taking over for Popovich and leading the Americans — if they qualify — into the 2023 Basketball World Cup and the 2024 Paris Olympics. Kerr's assistants will be Heat coach Erik Spoelstra, Suns coach Monty Williams and Gonzaga coach Mark Few.

Williams has been an assistant before, under former U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski. Spoelstra and Few were involved in coaching the U.S. select team, which was assembled to practice against the Olympic team, this past summer.

"Coaching the USA men's national team comes with great responsibility — one that calls for a group effort with a team of coaches committed to the team, to the goal and to each other — and I couldn't ask for a finer group of high character individuals to help me lead our national team," Kerr said. "Our goal, of course, is to win and make our country proud. We will work hard to do so."

Kerr would be the 16th different coach to take the U.S. men into an Olympics. Of the previous 15, 13 have emerged with gold. His hiring for the job represents the first major decision by Grant Hill in his role as managing director of the men's national team, the position he's taking after Jerry Colangelo helped the Americans win the last four Olympic gold medals in that role.

"I have been very, very blessed, very lucky, in my career," Kerr said at the news conference, a few minutes before Hill presented him with a USA Basketball jersey bearing the number "24" — a nod to the Paris Games. "And this opportunity is a result of being in the right place at the right time, working with the right people, having a lot of people lift me up along the way."

Kerr has three NBA titles as coach of the Warriors, won five more as a player, was part of the staff that won gold at the Tokyo Games and won a senior-level gold medal for USA Basketball as a player in the 1986 World Cup.

There are plenty of parallels between Popovich and Kerr, plenty of ties that bind. They're close friends, Kerr played for Popovich with the Spurs and both are taking the Olympic job after missing out on Olympic bids as players. Popovich tried to make the 1972 U.S. Olympic team; Kerr was a finalist for the 1988 Olympic team.

"I just did whatever he told me," Popovich said with a smile earlier this month when discussing what it was like to have Kerr on his Olympic staff.

The Americans currently are in the process of qualifying for the 2023 World Cup — which will end in the Philippines. A strong finish at the World Cup would be the easiest way to qualify for the Paris Olympics; simply being the reigning gold medalist and world's No. 1-ranked program doesn't get the Americans into the Games by default.

Hill said he and Kerr already have had conversations about how to approach the next 2 ½ years in terms of building a roster, putting their own touches on the program and still maintaining the best of what has delivered results for the U.S. in the past.

"I don't think you want to totally depart from what's worked," Hill said. "But I also think there's an opportunity to press the reset button on some things and look for opportunities to improve the experience and ultimately, the goal for everyone involved.

Look at this staff and they've all been a part of USA Basketball. Monty Williams was with Coach K's last quad. Erik Spoelstra and Mark Few were part of this past select team. So, it's something that can be looked upon as a continuation."

IN BRIEF

FG at end lifts Raiders over Browns

News services

Daniel Carlson's 48-yard field goal as time expired sent the Raiders to a 16-14 win on Monday night over the COVID-19-depleted Browns in a game pushed back two days by the NFL amid an uptick of virus cases across the league.

The Raiders (7-7), who weren't happy when the league delayed their visit to Cleveland, danced off their sideline when the kick went through.

The loss was devastating for the Browns (7-7), who would have vaulted into first place in the AFC North with a win. Instead, they fell into last place in the tightly packed division with three games remaining.

Due to a virus outbreak, the Browns were without QB Baker Mayfield and several other key players, and coach Kevin Stefanski.

Third-stringer Nick Mullens started at QB for the Browns.

■ The Giants shut down QB Daniel Jones for the rest of the season because of his neck injury. Jones, 24, who suffered the injury in Week 12, was placed on IR. He finished the season with 2,428 passing yards, 10 TDs and seven INTs and completed 64.3% of his passes. ... The Chiefs placed All-Pro TE Travis Kelce on the COVID-19 list. ESPN reported that Kelce is vaccinated, so he has a chance to play Sunday against the Steelers. ... Colts RB Jonathan Taylor, who led all players in Pro Bowl voting by fans, was one of the first players revealed by the league as being named to the Pro Bowl. Other players who were revealed early were Bucs QB Tom Brady, Kelce and Rams DT Aaron Donald and WR Cooper Kupp. With the game in Las Vegas, the league also revealed three Raiders made the Pro Bowl: DE Maxx Crosby, LB Denzel Perryman and P AJ Cole. The league announced that five Browns players were selected: DE Myles Garrett, RB Nick Chubb, CB Denzel Ward and Gs Joel Bitonio and Wyatt Teller. The rest of the Pro Bowl roster will be announced Wednesday.

Colleges: The North Carolina State men's basketball program was placed on probation for one year for NCAA recruiting violations following an independent investigation. It was the first decision issued through the Independent Accountability Resolution Process. ... Nia Clouden scored 50 points in Michigan State's 85-84 double-OT loss to Florida Gulf Coast in the West Palm Beach Invitational. Clouden broke the women's school record of 42 set by Tori Jankoska in 2017. She equaled the men's mark set by Terry Furlow in 1976. ... UConn's record 16-year run in the top 10 of The AP women's college basketball poll is over. The Huskies (6-3) fell four spots to No. 11 after losing to Louisville a day earlier. UConn had been ranked among the first 10 teams in the poll for 313 straight weeks dating back to March 7, 2005, when the team was also 11th. That's 101 more weeks than the next longest.

NHL: ESPN reported that the league plans to pause its season Wednesday, two days before its Christmas break. All team facilities will be closed Wednesday through Saturday as the league tries to weather several COVID outbreaks. Players are set to report back Sunday and resume daily testing. The schedule resumes Dec. 27. Eleven teams have already suspended operations and the league had postponed all games through Christmas involving cross-border travel between Canada and the U.S.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Tuesday: at Marquette, 9 p.m., FS1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Dec. 29: vs. Marquette (at XL Center), 7 p.m., SNY

UCONN
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

COVERAGE PRESENTED BY
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Protecting the rights of the injured for more than 60 years

UConn coach Dan Hurley reacts in the second half of Saturday's loss to Providence in Hartford. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

Huskies

from Page 1

Here's everything you need to know about Tuesday's matchup:

The basics

UConn vs. Marquette
Time: 9 p.m., Tuesday
Place: Fiserv Forum, Milwaukee
Series: Marquette leads 6-5
Last meeting: UConn won, 80-62, on Feb. 27 2021, at Gampel Pavilion
TV: FS1 (Kevin Fitzgerald, Donny Marshall)
Live Stream: Fox Sports
Radio: UConn Sports Network (Mike Crispino, Wayne Norman). Sirius-136. Xm-201 SXM-app-964. 97.9-ESPN Hartford. WILI-1400-AM (Willimantic). WATR-1320-AM (Waterbury). WAVZ-1300-AM (New Haven). WGCH-1490-AM (Greenwich).

Marquette (8-4) probable starters, sixth man

Kur Kuath, F, 6-10, GS; Justin Lewis, F, 6-7, Fr.; Darryl Morsell, G, 6-5, Sr.; Kam Jones, G, 6-4, Fr.; Tyler Kolek, G, 6-3, Fr.; Greg Elliott, G, 6-3, Jr.

UConn (10-3) probable starters, sixth man

R.J. Cole, G, 6-1, GS; Isaiah Whaley, F, 6-9, GS; ; Akok Akok, F, 6-9, R-Jr.; Tyrese Martin, G/F, 6-6, Sr.; Andre Jackson, G/F, 6-6, So.; Jordan Hawkins, G, 6-5, Fr.

The matchup

UConn's offense: The Huskies need to get Martin going from the start and make sure to not start off slow offensively.
UConn's defense: Marquette plays with a lot of pace (ranked 23rd in NCAA Division I), so the Huskies need to make sure to get back on defense and prevent fast-break points.
Marquette offense: Don't let Morsell get hot, as he's averaging 13.8 points per game while shooting 39.2% from 3. In the last game against Xavier he had 14 points on 6-for-13 shooting.
Marquette defense: Watch out for Morsell, as he was the Big Ten defensive player of the year in the 2020-21 when he played for Maryland.
UConn's key: The Huskies need to start strong offensively and take advantage of an inexperienced Marquette squad.
Player to watch: Cole. It will be important to see if UConn's leading scorer gets out of this offensive funk he has been in for the last four games.
About Marquette's coach: Shaka Smart is in his first year of coaching at Marquette. Smart coached VCU and Texas previously.
Marquette mascot: The mascot is the Golden Eagle.
Marquette famous alumni: NBA Hall of Famer Dwyane Wade.

Information from Associated Press was used in this report. Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com.

BASKETBALL

Terre Haute's Larry Bird museum targeted for 2023 opening

Associated Press

Organizers of a planned museum about basketball great Larry Bird in Terre Haute, Ind., have pushed back its expected opening until 2023.

The museum will be part of the new Terre Haute Convention Center that is scheduled for a March 2022 opening. The museum section, however, is awaiting decisions on about what memorabilia will be available, the Tribune-Star reported.

The museum opening is "going to be about a year behind" the convention center's opening, Gerard Hilferty of museum planning group Hilferty and Associates told Vigo County Capital Improvement Board last week.

Hilferty said designing the museum space will take about six months to complete, followed by six to nine months for audio visual production and exhibit construction.

"We want the experience to work for hard core Larry Bird fans, as well as schoolchildren and a broad range of audiences," Hilferty said.

Bird grew up in the southern Indiana town of French Lick. He created excitement during his days at Indiana State in Terre Haute when he led the school to the NCAA title game in 1979, although the Sycamores lost to Magic Johnson's Michigan State team.

When the Celtics won the 1984 NBA championship, Bird dedicated the win to Terre Haute. He was the Indiana Pacers coach and a top team executive after his playing career.

The museum is budgeted for $1.5 million as part of the $28 million convention center project.

[b]Shorthanded Celtics look to G League:[/b] The Celtics signed C.J. Miles, a 34-year-old veteran who was playing with the G-League's Ignite who hasn't played in the NBA since January 2020, to a 10-day hardship contract on Monday to cover for the shortfall from what is now seven players in health and safety protocols.

With Luke Kornet, Theo Pinson and Juwan Morgan already plucked off the Maine Celtics roster by other NBA teams scrambling to fill roster spots, and the Celtics now adding Miles to their other G-League signing Justin Jackson, it's a rare time to be a basketball minor leaguer.

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn falls out of top 10 after Louisville defeat

Last time Huskies had not been there was March 2005

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

Following the UConn women's basketball team's loss to Louisville on Sunday, the Huskies fell four spots to No. 11 in this week's Associated Press women's college basketball poll, ending a record streak of 313 consecutive weeks in the top 10 dating to March 7, 2005, when the team was also 11th. That streak was 101 more weeks than the next-longest one, courtesy of Tennessee.

No. 10 Baylor now has the longest active streak, with 136 consecutive top-10 appearances.

UConn has lost two of its three games since reigning national player of the year Paige Bueckers and backup point guard Nika Mühl have been sidelined with injuries. Then-unranked Georgia Tech beat the Huskies in Atlanta and has since entered the AP Top 25 poll, coming in at No. 17 this week. After beating UCLA, the Huskies dropped a close one to then-No. 6, now No. 3 Louisville in the Basketball Hall of Fame Women's Showcase this past weekend, marking the first time since 2004 that they've lost three games in a season before the new year.

UConn sports two wins over ranked opponents so far this season: No. 18 South Florida and No. 20 Notre Dame.

Elsewhere in the rankings, South Carolina, which beat a healthy UConn in the Bahamas by 16 in November, remains the consensus No. 1 team and will face off against new No. 2 Stanford on Tuesday in Columbia, South Carolina.

The Cardinal moved up one spot after winning at Tennessee on Saturday. It's the 600th appearance in the AP Top 25 for Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer, who is 18 behind all-time leader Pat Summitt.

Louisville, Arizona and North Carolina State follow Stanford to round out the top five. The Wolfpack fell three places after losing in overtime to Georgia.

The Huskies are currently breaking for the holidays and are set to return to the court Dec. 29 against Marquette. UConn coach Geno Auriemma seemed optimistic that Mühl and freshman Azzi Fudd could return after the break, which would provide a big boost to the Huskies' backcourt. Junior Aubrey Griffin has yet to make her season debut, first due to a high-ankle sprain and now due to back issues. Bueckers' recovery timeline is eight weeks from her Dec. 13 surgery that repaired a tibial plateau fracture and lateral meniscus tear.

Information from Associated Press was used in this report.

UConn

from Page 1

better than 33% from the perimeter.

Louisville coach Jeff Walz explained Sunday how UConn's poor shooting makes it easier for opposing teams to defend them.

"Paige shoots the basketball well. Azzi does also. I mean, they've got two kids that can shoot the 3 and spread things out and stretch things," Walz said. "Now they just don't shoot it as well. So you're able to pack in [the paint] more. You're able to help off and try and help on their post players."

Whenever Mühl and Fudd can return, the Huskies will get back two major playmakers and will be able to more easily stretch the floor, helping their offense tremendously.

Improved defense, rebounding

UConn's defense and rebounding have become gradually more dependable after early struggles in those areas. Coach Geno Auriemma said he's been pleased with his team's defense since the opener against Arkansas, though it's been a bit tougher to force turnovers with Bueckers sidelined. After rebounding an abysmal 37.3% of misses against South Carolina, the Huskies have not lost a battle on the boards since. UConn's productivity on the offensive glass against a strong defensive rebounding team in Louisville was particularly encouraging.

But if UConn wants to become an elite defensive, team, it will have to up its intensity in the final 10 minutes. In the three losses, South Carolina, Georgia Tech and Louisville each shot 43 percent or better in the fourth quarter.

Encouraging signs: Ducharme, Juhász

No one's stock is higher going into the holiday break than freshman Caroline Ducharme and graduate transfer Dorka Juhász. Both struggled to make an impact early in the season but have emerged as massive contributors since Mühl and Bueckers went down. Ducharme is coming off a career-best 24-point, eight-rebound performance against Louisville in which her fourth-quarter heroics kept the game close when the rest of the team failed to score. Juhász has scored at least 15 points in each of the last two games, looks increasingly comfortable in the Huskies' system and is making an impact on the glass and on defense as well.

If both can play at this level consistently, the Huskies will be significantly better off.

Need more from the seniors

UConn's over-reliance on Bueckers was apparent last season, in part a result of the inconsistencies from its then-juniors. The same can still be said of that group of current seniors, especially with Bueckers now out.

Evina Westbrook has had games of brilliance (she kept UConn in the game against UCLA last week), and others that are entirely forgettable (Sunday against Louisville). Olivia Nelson-Ododa has been a stalwart defensively and on the glass, but is prone to foul trouble and isn't enough of a factor offensively. Christyn Williams hasn't looked herself since the Minnesota game, or maybe Seton Hall. She's putting up career lows in both 2-point and 3-point shooting percentage, as well as career highs in turnovers. She and Westbrook are both shooting approximately 30 percent on 3s this season, exacerbating the Huskies' offensive problems.

The seniors still have time to turn things around. What Auriemma is asking of them is nothing they haven't done before. The flashes are there. Now it's time to string them together consistently.

4th-quarter struggles

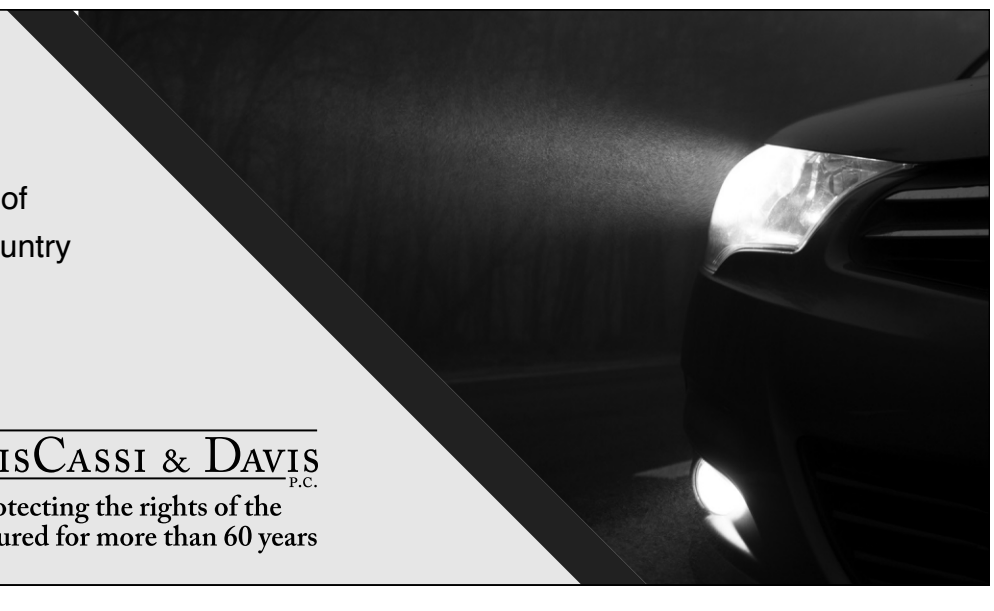
UConn's three losses have followed a similar pattern: Despite being a one-possession game or tied going into the fourth, the Huskies couldn't pull together 10 minutes of their best basketball to come out with a win. Again, the primary issue has been on offense. In their first two losses, the Huskies scored a combined eight points on 3-for-22 shooting in the fourth. Across all three, they're averaging nearly six turnovers in the final frame.

The team's senior leaders haven't answered the call when needed most.

Both with and without Bueckers, the Huskies need to learn how to close out games and execute offensively in the fourth, or else defeating the better teams in the country will be nearly impossible.

Did you know?

The rising use of high intensity headlights and the popularity of pickups and S.U.V.s are prompting complaints around the country about the glare and intensity of these headlights.



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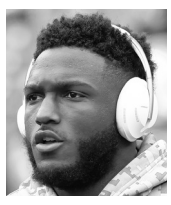
NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

A's promote Kotsay to manager

The A's found their next manager from within the organization as Mark Kotsay is set to take over the job after Bob Melvin — the winningest manager in Oakland A's history — left for the Padres earlier this offseason. MLB.com was the first to report of the promotion. Kotsay was the A's third base coach last season, his seventh on Melvin's staff. Leaving the Padres hitting coach job in 2014, Kotsay joined Melvin's staff as the bench coach in 2015 and moved to quality control coach in 2017 before taking on third base coach duties. The 46-year-old former infielder played 17 seasons in the major leagues with seven different teams, including a stint from 2004-07 with the A's. He finished his career with 127 home runs, 720 RBIs and a .276 batting average. Kotsay is an internal hire, which could save some money for a cost-conscious team. There had been outside interest in him as he has interviewed to manage the Tigers, Astros and Giants in recent years. The hire is one of few transactions the A's can make this month as the league's lockout continues. Teams can't make any moves involving players after the owners imposed a lockout following the Dec. 1 expiration of the collective bargaining agreement with the players' association.

Bucs WR Godwin out rest of season



Buccaneers receiver Chris Godwin has a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and will be out for the remainder of the season. Godwin was injured early in the second quarter of a 9-0 loss to Saints on Sunday night after catching a pass from Tom Brady over the middle and taking a hard hit directly on the knee. The tackle flipped the receiver into the air and Godwin remained on the ground momentarily before being helped to his feet and walking off under his own power. He was later seen running on the Bucs sideline, but did not re-enter the game. Coach Bruce Arians said Monday that the hit was legal, but is the type of play that needs to be examined as part of ongoing efforts to make the game safer. A fifth-year pro, Godwin finished the season with a career-best 98 catches for 1,103 yards and six TDs (five receiving, one rushing). Receiver is one of the deepest positions on Bucs roster, however the loss of Godwin coupled with Mike Evans (64 receptions, 899 yards, 11 TDs) suffering a hamstring injury Sunday could be tough for the reigning Super Bowl champions to overcome.

Premier League decides to play on

Premier League clubs decided Moday against pausing the season despite 10 fixtures being postponed in the previous week due to the most widespread coronavirus outbreaks to date across squads. While more than 90% of players in the Italian and Spanish leagues are fully vaccinated, the Premier League disclosed that only 77% of its players had received two doses. In its first update on vaccine take-up in two months, the league also said 16% of players hadn't received a single dose. Coronavirus cases across players and staff hit another high in the last week, more than doubling from 42 to 90. It reflects a spike in infections across Britain — up some 60% in the last week — with more than 90,000 daily cases reported in three of the last four days. Premier League clubs met virtually after six of the weekend's 10 games were called off. Due to the looming congestion to play postponed games, plans for replays in the third and fourth rounds of the FA Cup have been scrapped. The league has urged players to get vaccinated to avoid squads being depleted and games called off due to coronavirus cases. The British government hopes vaccine boosters will offer more protection against the highly transmissible omicron variant. *—News services*

The AFC North lead will be at stake when Joe Burrow and the Bengals play the Ravens in Week 16. **MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY**

NFL ANALYSIS

It's crowded at the top

Plenty of teams remain in hunt for playoff berth

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

John Harbaugh again went for the win and the AFC North became even more jumbled.

The Ravens (8-6) dropped their third straight game Sunday when Tyler Huntley threw incomplete to Mark Andrews on a 2-point conversion attempt after they had rallied for a pair of touchdowns in the final five minutes to get within one point of the Packers.

The same thing happened in Week 13 on the road against the Steelers.

That time, Lamar Jackson threw incomplete to Andrews and the Ravens lost 20-19.

The Ravens' latest loss knocked them out of first place and set up a showdown against the Bengals (8-6) in Cincinnati for the top spot next week.

The Steelers (7-6-1) kept up with an impressive win over AFC South-leading Tennessee.

The Browns (7-7) are right behind after losing to the Raiders 16-14 on Monday.

The division likely will come down to the final week when the Ravens host the Steelers and the Browns host the Bengals.

Perhaps the Ravens would be in a better position if they kicked the extra point and played for overtime against the Steelers and Packers, though there's no guarantee they would've won either game.

"It goes by situation to situation," Harbaugh said. "Those two situations you want to talk about, if you want to go back and rehash the season, I'm happy to do it. To me, in both of those cases, that gave us the best chance to win. Because we didn't win doesn't make it not true. It's still true now, just as true as it was then. So, it doesn't always work out."

Harbaugh wasn't the only coach whose aggressiveness backfired in Week 15. Chargers coach Brandon Staley passed up three field goals only to see his offense fail to convert on fourth down each time in a 34-28 overtime loss to the Chiefs on Thursday night.

He also didn't apologize.

"I'm never going to gamble as a coach," Staley said. "These players mean too much to me. Our team means too much to me.

"I'm not gambling at all. I'm definitely not going to be reckless, ever. I felt like those were advantaged situations for us. I didn't think any one of those opportunities decreased our chances of winning. I felt like doing that made our chances of winning increase in a big way.

"What we're trying to establish around here is the mindset that we're going to try and go win the game on our terms, and the team is going to have to beat us."

A victory would've given the Chargers (8-6) a season sweep over the Chiefs and put the Chargers in first place in the AFC West.

Instead, the Chargers, like the Ravens, have a tougher task to reach the postseason.

The close race in the AFC North is a microcosm of the NFL in 2021.

Only the Packers (11-3) have clinched a division title.

The Buccaneers (10-4) and Cowboys (10-4) have comfortable leads, but the Buccaneers missed an opportunity to win the NFC South and hurt their chances for a No. 1 seed by losing 9-0 to the Saints.

The NFC West suddenly got tighter with the Cardinals' stunning road loss to to the previously one-win Lions. The Cardinals have a half-game lead over the Rams (9-4), who face the Seahawks on Tuesday night.

The AFC East is up for grabs with the Patriots (9-5) and Bills (8-6) separated by one game.

The Colts (8-6) are only one game behind the Titans (9-5) but have lost to them twice.

The Chiefs (10-4) have a two-game lead over the Chargers.

This is the first time since 2002 that no teams in the AFC have clinched a playoff spot after 15 weeks, although the schedule was extended to 18 weeks this season.

Nine AFC teams are within one game of one another — the Raiders (7-7) joined that group with their road victory over the Browns — in the race for three wild-card spots.

The NFC will have at least five teams within one game of one another for the last wild-card spot.

Entering Monday's games, only four teams had been eliminated from playoff contention.

The NFL's first season with 17 games is setting up for a wild finish.

With coaches like Harbaugh and Staley making gutsy decisions on a weekly basis, it'll make it even more exciting.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Tulsa dominates Myrtle Beach Bowl

News services

Davis Brin threw for 285 yards and two touchdowns, and Tulsa closed the season with its fourth straight victory, beating Old Dominion 30-17 at the Myrtle Beach Bowl on Monday in Conway, South Carolina.

Josh Johnson had eight catches for 129 yards including a 23-yard reception as the Golden Hurricane (7-6) won their second straight bowl game and third in their last four appearances.

As effective as Tulsa's offense was, its defense was just as good. It held the Monarchs (6-7) of Conference USA to 135 yards through the first three quarters.

Things started strongly for Old Dominion, which won its last five of the regular season to qualify for the bowl, when LaMareon James opened the game in historic fashion with a 100-yard kick return for a touchdown.

It was the first such return on the opening kick in its 11 seasons of football.

But the Monarchs struggled to find an attack as Tulsa of the American Athletic Conference took control.

It took until the fourth quarter for Old Dominion to post an offensive touchdown on Blake Watson's 2-yard run. By then, Tulsa was up 30-17 and not about to surrender the lead.

Shamari Brooks ran for 107 yards and a 1-yard touchdown, Tulsa's answer that came less than two minutes after Old Dominion's kick return score.

Johnson's touchdown catch on the next series put Tulsa up for good.

And things could've been worse if the Monarchs hadn't taken over on downs when Tulsa, needing a yard at midfield, failed to convert on third and fourth downs.

Tulsa took advantage of safety LJ Wallace's interception — he twisted in front of the receiver to make the play — for a 35-yard field goal by Zack Long right before halftime to lead 17-10.

Johnson had his sixth 100-yard receiving game this season by the half with five receptions for 101 yards.

There was a brief flurry of lunacy in the final quarter. An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty left Tulsa at fourth-and-17 and lining up to punt.

But punter Lachlan Wilson inexplicably took off running straight into a wall of Old Dominion defenders for a 1-yard loss.

The Monarchs, down 23-10, jumped on the break with a 22 yard run by Watson and a pass from Hayden Wolff to an open Ali Jennings inside the 10.

As Jennings headed toward the end zone, cornerback Tyon Davis forced the ball loose for a touchback to end the threat.

Old Dominion couldn't rally, losing a bowl game for the first time in two appearances since joining the FBS in 2013.

Tide turns up protocols: As COVID-19 cases surge nationwide due to the new omicron variant, Alabama is returning to its safety protocols from a year ago as it prepares for the College Football Playoff.

Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban said Monday that the team is back to wearing masks in the facility and social distancing during meetings.

Saban added that more than 90% of players are vaccinated and have received their booster shots.

"Am I concerned?" Saban said. "I'm always concerned when there's an issue out there, and we want to do the best we can to help our players be concerned about the issue and respect it so they have the best opportunity to stay safe."

Top-ranked Alabama will play No. 4 Cincinnati in the first CFP semifinal on New Year's Eve.

Today's bowl games

FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL
Kent State (7-6) at Wyoming (6-6)
3:30 p.m., ESPN

KEY MATCHUP
Kent State's run game vs. Wyoming's defense. The Golden Flashes have been among the best teams in the country running the ball this season, averaging 243 yards per game on the ground. Marquez Cooper has been the leader with 1,080 yards rushing, but he's one of three runners with more than 600 yards. The Cowboys have allowed 169 yards per game rushing this season and haven't held an opponent under 160 yards on the ground in the last five games.

FRISCO BOWL
UTSA (12-1) vs. San Diego State (11-2)
7:30 p.m., ESPN

KEY MATCHUP
UTSA RB Sincere McCormick vs. the No. 2 rushing defense in the country. McCormick has amassed 1,479 yards (113 per game) and 15 touchdowns. San Diego State is allowing 78 yards rushing per game. The Aztecs have allowed one 100-yard rusher this year. McCormick hit that mark eight times this season, including a season-high 204 in the Conference USA title game.

— Associated Press

WEATHER

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Thickening cloudiness and milder. Chance for light freezing rain or a mixture of precipitation late at night.	Chance for some freezing rain and rain in the morning, becoming partly sunny in the afternoon, breezy.	Mostly sunny and colder.	Mixed clouds and sunshine. Chance for snow or a wintry mix to develop overnight.	Chance for a wintry mix and rain in the morning, then partly sunny and cool.
HIGH 44° LOW 27°	HIGH 44° LOW 24°	HIGH 36° LOW 23°	HIGH 40° LOW 30°	HIGH 43° LOW 29°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
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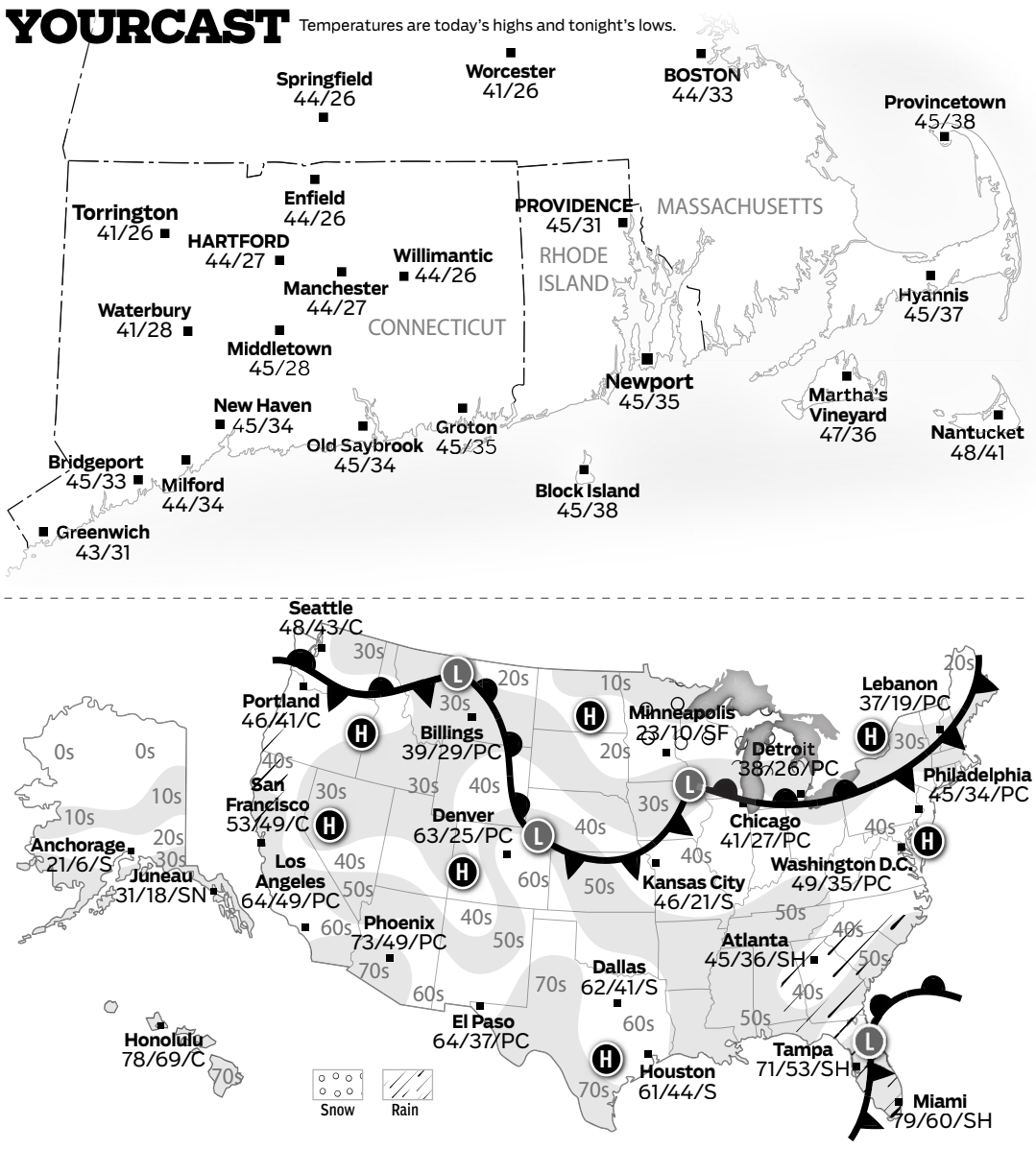
YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

High pressure will bring some sunshine Tuesday morning, but thickening cloudiness, especially high clouds, will filter the sun or even cause the sky to become mostly cloudy at times midday and during the afternoon. Temperatures will be more comfortable with highs in the low to mid-40s. A trough of low pressure could cause a light wintry mix late tonight and early Wednesday, then the sky will become partly sunny for the midday and afternoon hours. High pressure dominates on Thursday with a mostly sunny sky and high temperatures mainly in the 30s.

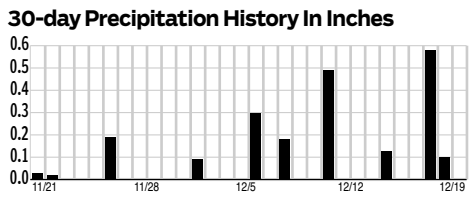
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.13
Month to date	1.87	2.72
Total this year	53.86	45.69
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.4
Total this year	2.1	7.8

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

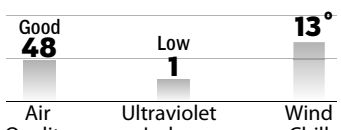
30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	10:44 a.m. 11:15 p.m.	4:26 a.m. 5:19 p.m.	44°
Saybrook Jetty	11:55 a.m. p.m.	5:19 a.m. 6:12 p.m.	45°
Connecticut River at Portland	2:24 a.m. 2:38 p.m.	9:05 a.m. 9:58 p.m.	
Madison	12:00 a.m. 12:07 p.m.	5:51 a.m. 6:27 p.m.	45°
New Haven	12:20 a.m. 12:27 p.m.	6:15 a.m. 6:51 p.m.	44°
Stamford	12:24 a.m. 12:31 p.m.	6:29 a.m. 7:05 p.m.	47°

River Stage at Hartford: 6.71 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:14 a.m.	7:15 a.m.
Sunset	4:23 p.m.	4:23 p.m.
Moonrise	6:29 p.m.	7:32 p.m.
Moonset	9:24 a.m.	10:03 a.m.

Moon Phase

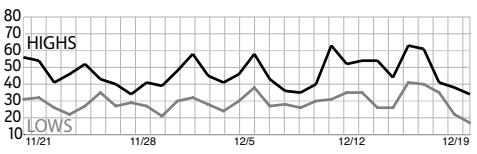
Last	New	First	Full
Dec 26	Jan 2	Jan 9	Jan 17

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
	PCloudy	PCloudy	PCloudy
Wind	W/N, 5-15	W/NW, 10-20	W/NW, 15
Seas	1-2 ft.	2-3 ft.	2-4 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Monday	34 at 3:00 p.m	17 at 7:32 a.m
Normal for date	39	24
Record for date	61 in 1957	-10 in 1942
A year ago	32	19
Range this year	99	1

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Dec 20	1496	1786	1627

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.38 at 10 a.m.	30.21 at 6 p.m.
Dew point	17° at 12 a.m.	12° at 5 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND			Baltimore	47	28	PC	Nashville	52	31	PC	San Juan	84	74	SH
Bangor	36	15	PC	Bismarck	22	10	PC	New Orleans	57	42	C	Tucson	75	45	PC
Burlington	37	22	PC	Boise	33	23	PC	New York	46	37	S				
Caribou	23	6	PC	Buffalo	40	29	PC	Okla. City	62	31	S	**WORLD**			
Concord	41	18	S	Charleston	54	43	R	Omaha	40	16	S	Amsterdam	37	25	S
Montpelier	31	17	PC	Cincinnati	47	28	PC	Orlando	75	49	SH	Athens	52	39	C
Mt. Wash.	19	14	PC	Cleveland	41	28	PC	Pittsburgh	43	29	PC	Bangkok	88	68	R
Portland	43	25	S	Indianapolis	45	23	PC	Raleigh	45	35	C	Barbados	84	75	PC
Woods Hole	43	33	S	Jacksonville	56	43	R	St. Louis	50	26	S	Beijing	45	27	C
NATION			Las Vegas	59	40	PC	Salt Lake City	39	22	PC	Beirut	64	55	SH
Albany	39	24	PC	Miami Beach	80	65	SH	San Antonio	68	47	S	Berlin	34	25	C
Albuquerque	55	28	PC	Milwaukee	39	18	PC	San Diego	64	50	PC	Bermuda	71	66	PC
Atlantic City	48	32	PC												

Budapest	35	23	PC	Kingston	90	75	PC	Stockholm	24	16	PC
Buenos Aires	86	70	T	Lisbon	63	50	R	Sydney	84	68	PC
Cairo	62	48	PC	London	43	34	C	Tel Aviv	62	52	SH
Cancun	78	66	T	Madrid	57	45	C	Tokyo	57	39	S
Dubai	81	64	S	Mexico City	70	46	S	Toronto	36	25	PC
Dublin	45	44	C	Milan	41	28	SH	Vancouver	36	35	R
Edinburgh	41	33	C	Montreal	30	21	SF	Warsaw	27	23	S
Helsinki	10	9	S	Moscow	1	-9	SN				
Hong Kong	64	63	R	Nassau	84	70	SH				
Istanbul	43	30	R	New Delhi	68	43	PC				
Jerusalem	50	41	PC	Paris	39	28	C				
Johannesburg	75	57	T	Prague	32	23	PC				
				Rio de Janeiro	91	72	C				
				Rome	54	45	SH				
				Seoul	46	27	C				
				Singapore	93	75	T				

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center

MONDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-West
SIMSBURY 52, HALL 37
HALL (1-1): Amare Dugue 3-2-8, Makyle Ramos 0-0-0, Amecca Freeman 1-0-2, Ixael Albino 0-0-0, Angelo Culmo 3-0-6, Spencer Berson 2-0-4, Harris Berson 1-0-2, Alex Moemeka 3-5-13, Joe Cooley 1-0-2. Totals 14-7-37.
SIMSBURY (2-0): Anthony Simpson 3-2-9, Aidan Riordan 6-2-15, Keenan Willison 1-0-2, Chris Kokines 6-5-18, Alex Pepper 2-1-6, Nate Beizer 0-2-2. Totals 18-11-52.

H	**4**	**7**	**6**	**20**	**— 37**
S	**13**	**12**	**17**	**10**	**— 52**

CCC-Inter
MANCHESTER 56, NEWINGTON 46
NEWINGTON (1-1): Nick Gagliardi 5-1-11, Gunn Gray 3-3-11, Trey Guest 5-5-15, Noah Thorald 1-0-2, Sean Hurley 1-0-2, Freddie Martinez 1-3-5. Totals 16-12-46.
MANCHESTER (2-0): Taliek Davis 6-4-16, Troy Butler 6-2-16, Jared Lindstrom 3-0-6, Jermaine Robinson 3-0-6, Adrian Parker 4-0-8, Lucas Ryan 1-2-4. Totals 23-8-56.

N	**2**	**12**	**9**	**23**	**— 46**
M	**10**	**6**	**20**	**20**	**— 56**

Note: Lindstrom had 11 rebounds and Davis had 4 steals.
AVON 62, BRISTOL EASTERN 43
AVON (3-0): Alan Brockman 2-0-5, Jadd Eldah 3-0-6, Isaac Aquilar 7-4-18, Tabor Engle 1-0-2, Tyler Brokenshire 8-0-19, Aidan Srb 2-0-6, Aarsh Moza 1-0-2, Emmett Borenstein 2-0-4. Totals 26-4-62.
BRISTOL EASTERN (0-2): Nasir Walker-Jenkins 3-4-11, Jeremiah Tatum 1-0-3, Elijah Borgelin 1-0-3, Lucas Sward 2-0-4, Ben D'amato 1-0-3, Brayden Dauphinais 3-4-11, Nate Fries 0-2-2, Isiah Lawrence-Bynum 3-0-6. Totals 14-10-43.

A	**23**	**11**	**13**	**15**	**— 62**
BE	**14**	**12**	**8**	**9**	**— 43**

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 92, HARTFORD PUBLIC 54
HARTFORD PUBLIC (0-2): Abdul Sani 6-0-13, James Majors 3-0-8, Jaelon Owens 5-3-15, Traiquan Hodge 1-0-2, Tobias Murphy 2-0-5, Jeyleo Santiago 2-0-4, Eric Guy 1-3-5, Rashad Collins 1-0-2. Totals 21-6-54.
NORTHWEST CATHOLIC (2-1): Matthew Curtis 13-1-30, Jehyvic Spencer 2-1-5, London Jemison 4-3-11, Tanner Ostop 1-0-2, Gianni Mirabello 8-2-22, John Staunton 1-0-2, Jude Gonzalez 1-1-3, Cavin Pollard 1-1-3, Liam Conklin 1-0-2, Badara Diakite 2-2-7, Braeden Harris 2-0-5. Totals 36-11-92.
MALONEY 89, TOLLAND 86
FARMINGTON 71, EAST HARTFORD 50
ENFIELD 57, NEW BRITAIN 46
MIDDLETOWN 57, GLASTONBURY 31
BULKELEY 67, PLAINVILLE 66

CRAL
CLASSICAL 57, AEROSPACE 49
CLASSICAL (2-0): Manny Acheampong 2-0-4, Josiah Perez-Henry 2-0-5, Dwight Biggs 3-1-7, Nazier Williams 6-2-17, Isaiah Waring 7-10-24. Totals 20-13-57.
AEROSPACE (1-1): Rayquanne Bogle 4-2-10, Alex Small 4-1-11, Kooper Ashmore 2-0-5, Justin Smith 4-0-9, Kevin Clarke 6-2-14. Totals 20-5-49.

C	**11**	**13**	**16**	**17**	**— 57**
A	**12**	**11**	**9**	**17**	**— 49**

WEAVER 72, INNOVATION 28
UNIVERSITY 58, PARISH HILL 33
SCC
HAND 55, LAW 36
NOTRE DAME-WEST HAVEN 80, XAVIER 48
Others
ELLINGTON 66, PORTLAND 44
SOUTH WINDSOR 41, EAST GRANBY 39
CROMWELL 72, CANTON 54
WINDHAM TECH 89, BOLTON 74

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-North
WINDSOR 59, BLOOMFIELD 24
WINDSOR (2-1): Hailey Rivera 1-0-3, Ayanna Franks 14-0-30, Mikaela Williams 1-8-10, Amaiya Stevens 3-0-6, Janet Woodard 2-0-5, Jordyn Bay-Kent 2-0-4. Totals 23-8-58.
BLOOMFIELD (0-2): Dejahlee Dogans 4-2-12, Nyasia Dogans 1-1-3, Marcelle James 1-0-2, Taylor Jackson 1-0-2, Tanae Spears 1-0-2, Kyelah Smith 1-0-3. Totals 9-3-24.

W	**7**	**8**	**27**	**16**	**— 58**
B	**6**	**9**	**3**	**6**	**— 24**

Of **note:** Franks had a triple-double with 11 rebounds, 10 steals. Williams had 6 steals.
NEW BRITAIN 58, HARTFORD PUBLIC 39
NEW BRITIAN (1-2): Adrianna Faienza 5-0-10, Kiatyanna Denmark 4-2-10, Xandra Silva 3-1-9, Layla Mejia 6-0-15, Tiajah Cooper 1-1-3, Nevaeh King 1-0-2, Jamily Carter 1-2-4, Kaylee Cahill 2-0-6. Totals 23-6-59.
HARTFORD PUBLIC (0-3): Ty Mercado 1-0-2, Gigi Perry 1-0-2, Yesmar Martinez 1-0-2, Marisol Figueroa 12-3-27, T'Shyra Morrison 2-1-6. Totals 17-4-39.

NB	**10**	**17**	**21**	**11**	**— 49**
HP	**9**	**8**	**7**	**15**	**— 49**

Of **note:** Figueroa had a career-high of 27 points and 20 rebounds. Morrison had 6 assists.
NEWINGTON 35, WETHERSFIELD 24
NEWINGTON (3-0): Lilly Ferguson 6-5-19, Karissa Zocco 3-0-9, Bela Cucuta 2-2-7, Marlie Zocco 0-0-0, Adriana Romano 0-0-0. Totals 11-7-35.
WETHERSFIELD (2-1): Vanessa Venditti 1-4-6, Olivia Barnett 0-3-3, Bella Tomaino 1-2-4, Alexa Grenier 3-2-8, Mackenzie Mori 0-3-3. Totals 5-14-24.

N	**10**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**— 35**
W	**4**	**4**	**10**	**6**	**— 24**

Of **note:** Cucuta had 9 rebounds.
CCC-South
LEWIS MILLS 38, PLATT 37
LEWIS MILLS (1-1): Jordan Anderson 6-1-14, Riley Mills 2-2-7, Abriana Wroblewski 1-0-2, Kiana Bolleyer 1-1-3, Lillian Martineau 4-0-10, Abby Jankoski 1-0-2. Totals 15-4-38.
PLATT (1-1): Vianna Alcantara 3-0-6, Asia Felix DeJesus 0-1-1, Kamani White 2-1-5, Kaylani Cruz 2-0-5, Zaria Calloway 1-0-2, Khrystina Campbell 2-5-9, Antwanette Tann 4-1-9. Totals 14-8-37.

LM	**12**	**15**	**7**	**4**	**— 38**
P	**8**	**9**	**9**	**11**	**— 37**

Note: Martineau had 7 rebounds and Mills had 5 assists.

CCC-Inter
ROCKY HILL 44, PLAINVILLE 39
PLAINVILLE (0-3): Lilly Wazorko 6-1-15, Cookie Martinez 2-0-4, Elyse Brown 4-0-9, Marissa Miller 3-0-6, Sami Thompson 1-1-3, Hailey Anderson 1-0-2. Totals 17-2-39.
ROCKY HILL (2-1): Abigail Boutin 6-1-14, Lily Margiotta 1-0-2, Alyssa Gau 1-0-2, Kate Oostendorp 3-3-9, Faith Beliveau 0-0-0, Maleena Muzio 1-0-2, Angelina Daley 2-1-5, Christina DeNovellis 3-5-11. Totals 17-10-45.
Note: DeNovellis had a double-double with 11 rebounds, 4 steals and Oostendorp had 9 steals.
E.O. SMITH 53, MIDDLETOWN 52
MIDDLETOWN (2-1): Shalyn Smith 5-1-15, Jada Bryant 2-0-4, Tyah Pettaway 6-2-14, Kaila Torres 0-1-1, Tajahnae Brock 0-2-2, Shadae Bushay 7-0-16. Totals 20-6-52.
E.O. SMITH (2-1): Jill Dingler 0-1-1, Olivia Verboven 0-0-0, Madeline Greene 1-0-3, Kate McAvoy 4-0-11, Claire Greene 5-7-20, Lilli Clark 3-2-9, Maddie Hughes 2-1-5, Bella Mallory 2-0-4. Totals 17-11-53.

M	**9**	**22**	**13**	**8**	**— 52**
EOS	**14**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**— 53**

RHAM 46, BRISTOL CENTRAL 36
RHAM (4-0): Sarah West 4-3-11, Lauren Fenton 2-0-6, Ailish Kleihen 1-1-3, Kathy Chapman 3-0-6, Grace Whitmore 5-0-14, Addison Brown 2-0-4, Maddie Graces 1-0-2. Totals 18-4-46.
BRISTOL CENTRAL (0-3): Leilani Mills Jades 3-0-6, Brooke Watson 2-0-4, Ariana Rivera 1-1-3, Lillian Sirois 8-2-18, Callie Codovico 1-0-3. Totals 17-3-36.

R	**9**	**10**	**18**	**9**	**— 46**
BC	**4**	**15**	**6**	**11**	**— 36**

SOUTHINGTON 54, SOUTH WINDSOR 46

NCCC
STAFFORD 54, EAST WINDSOR 38
EAST WINDSOR (0-2): Zoe Pepin 4-0-8, Bailey Winner 9-0-18, Samantha Corrado 1-0-2, Alexandra Witzke 2-0-4, Katie Blume 2-2-6. Totals 18-2-38.
STAFFORD (2-0): Jordan Huntley 1-1-3, Raina Caro 1-0-3, Camden Smith 3-2-10, Andrea Moulton 7-4-19, Jaelyn Moulton 2-1-7, Drea Oswell 1-1-5, Kalye Gutierrez 1-5-7. Totals 18-12-54.

EW	**10**	**4**	**6**	**18**	**— 38**
S	**10**	**21**	**8**	**15**	**— 54**

Of **note:** Smith had 14 rebounds and A. Moulton had 6 steals.

Shoreline
NORTH BRANFORD 54, HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 48

CTC
ELLIS TECH 38, CHENEY TECH 16
CRAL
CIVIC LEADERSHIP 49, AEROSPACE 45
AEROSPACE (2-1): Ariana Murray 0-1-1, Julia McLean 7-2-16, Faith Mitchell 0-0-0, Ashanti McLean 11-6-28, Kate Bernier 0-0-0, Justice Kitchens 0-0-0, Aulona Misini 0-0-0, Mita Muralidhoran 0-0-0, Sammy Johnson 0-0-0, Saidy Plasencia 0-0-0. Totals 18-9-45.
CIVIC LEADERSHIP (2-1): Gabby Tinsley 5-6-17, Faith Ramos 0-0-0, Gio Shaw 4-0-9, Shaniqua Thomas 4-5-13, Tatyanna Noguerra 1-0-2, Ariell Cuyler 3-0-8. Totals 17-11-49.

A	**11**	**13**	**8**	**13**	**— 45**
CL	**9**	**11**	**15**	**14**	**— 49**

CLASSICAL 51, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST 31
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST (0-2): Arya Grace Pearson 5-2-12, De'Asiah Jones 8-2-19, Desire Cunningham 0-0-0, Harmonee Griffin 0-0-0, LeeAnn Powell 0-0-0. Totals 13-4-31.
CLASSICAL (2-1): Jasmine Charlery 3-0-6, Kyeera Hall 2-0-4, Mhia Huayta-Abreu 2-0-6, Sequoia Turcotte Briggs 13-3-33, Jaylene Perez 1-0-2. Totals 21-3-51.

AF	**7**	**10**	**8**	**6**	**— 31**
C	**16**	**7**	**18**	**8**	**— 51**

CAPITAL PREP 39, PARISH HILL 35

Others
WESTBROOK 47, WHITNEY TECH 8
WHITNEY TECH (0-3): Kamia Nonussi 1-0-3, Franny Vargas 2-0-5. Totals 3-0-8.
WESTBROOK (2-0): Adriana Stranieri 5-0-10, Leticia Pires 2-0-4, Sadie Susi 1-0-3, Jami Sacco 9-0-21, Alex Zanzalari 1-0-2, Gianni Salisbury 1-0-2, Olivia Palumbo 0-0-0, Tatiana Vallejo 1-0-3, Giovanna Silva 1-0-2. Totals 21-0-47.

WT	**3**	**2**	**3**	**0**	**— 8**
W	**16**	**18**	**13**	**0**	**— 47**

BOLTON 51, WINDHAM TECH 19
WINDHAM TECH (1-1): Julia Phouangphiarith 1-1-4, Baylee Miller 1-0-3, Claudia Koiva 2-0-4, Meghan Campbell 2-0-6, Hannah Nuhfer 1-0-2. Totals 7-1-19.
BOLTON (2-1): Emma Diehl 5-0-11, Niya Islam 3-0-7, Isabel Kenney 6-0-13, Riley Graves 1-0-3, Makenna Graves 4-0-8, Emily DeNunzio 2-1-5, Allie Buonomano 1-0-2, Julia Zimmerman 1-0-2. Totals 23-1-51.

WT	**4**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**— 19**
B	**22**	**6**	**13**	**10**	**— 51**

SEYMOUR 48, WINDSOR LOCKS 30

BOYS HOCKEY

SCC/SWC
SHEEHAN 11, MASUK 1
Others
SOUTH WINDSOR 4, HAND 0
SIMSBURY 2, NEW CANAAN 2

GIRLS HOCKEY

Others
AVON CO-OP 7, RIDGEFIELD CO-OP 3

BOYS SWIMMING

SCC
HAND 98, LYMAN HALL/COGINCHAUG 79
Note: JD Starkey (100/200 free) and Jonah Kehew (500 free/100 back) were double winners for Hand.

TUESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES AT 6:45 P.M. UNLESS NOTED

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-**North:** Bloomfield at Wethersfield
CCC-**East:** South Windsor at RHAM
CCC-**Inter:** E.O. Smith at Rocky Hill, 6:30 p.m.; Conard at Platt
SCC: Lyman Hall at Sheehan, 7 p.m.
ECC: Bacon Academy at St. Bernard, 7 p.m.
NVL: St. Paul at Ansonia, 6:30 p.m.
Others: NFA at Capital Prep, 6 p.m.; MLC at Enfield; SMSA at Haddam-Killingworth; East Hartford at New London, 7 p.m.; Morgan at East Lyme, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-**East:** East Hartford at Manchester
CCC-**West:** Conard at Glastonbury
CCC-**Inter:** East Catholic at Northwest Catholic; Berlin at Simsbury; Hall at Bristol Eastern; Enfield at Lewis Mills
NCCC: Rockville at Canton
Shoreline: East Hampton at Valley Regional, 6 p.m.; Morgan at Cromwell, 7 p.m.
CTC: Norwich Tech at Goodwin Tech, 4 p.m.; Wilcox Tech at Prince Tech, 5:30 p.m.
SCC: Mercy at Lauralton Hall, 6:15 p.m.; Cheshire at Shelton, 7 p.m.; Sheehan at Lyman Hall, 7 p.m.; Guilford at Hand, 7 p.m.
ECC: Ledyard at Bacon Academy, 6 p.m.; Stonington at Windham, 7 p.m.
NVL: Ansonia at St. Paul, 7 p.m.
Others: East Windsor at MLC, 4:30 p.m.; Ellis Tech at University, 5:30 p.m.; Granby at Plainville

BOYS HOCKEY

Others: Conard at Cheshire, 4 p.m.; Xavier at Greenwich, 4:30 p.m.; Tri-Town at BBD, 5 p.m.

WRESTLING

NCCC: Somers at Suffield/Windsor Locks, 6 p.m.; Stafford at Rockville, 6 p.m.
SCC: Xavier at Notre Dame-West Haven, 7 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC: Middletown at Windsor, 4 p.m.; Lewis Mills at Wethersfield, 5:30 p.m.
SCC: Cheshire at Shelton, 3:45 p.m.; Xavier at Hamden, 4 p.m.; H-K/Morgan/Valley, Fairfield Prep at Sheehan, 5 p.m.
Others: South Windsor at Suffield/Ellington, 4 p.m.

MONDAY'S COLLEGE RESULT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FAIRFIELD 66, QUINNIPIAC 62

TUESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn at Marquette, 9 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sacred Heart at Boston College, 11 a.m.
Central at Albany, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

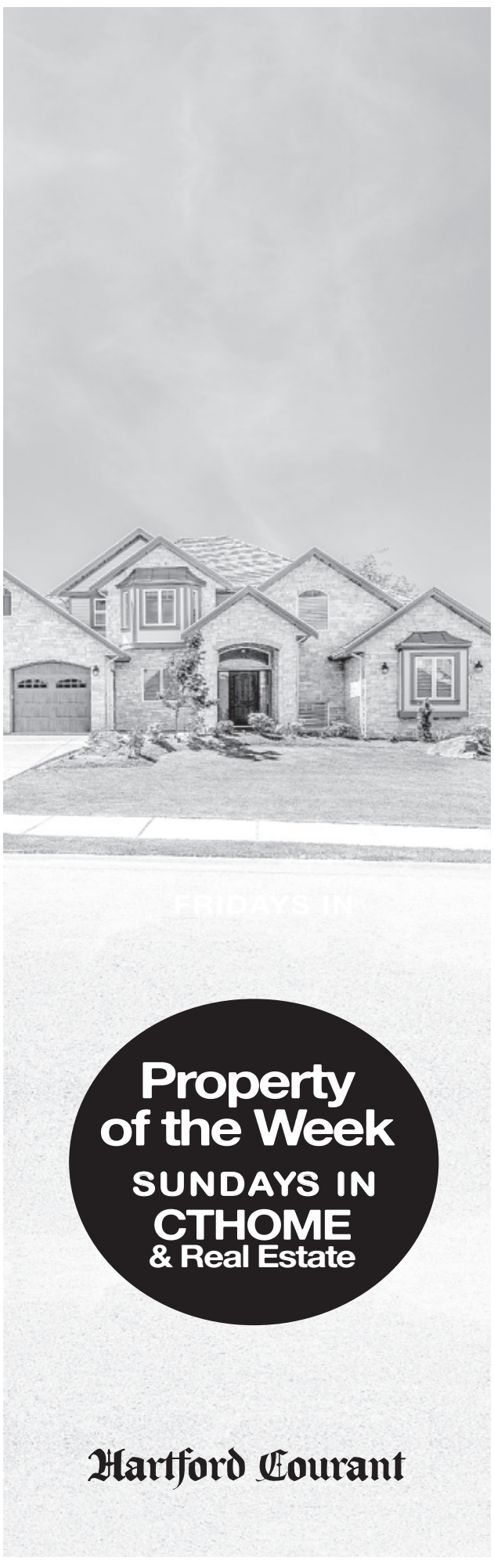
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hartford at Sacred Heart, 11 a.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UMass at Hartford, noon

THURSDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Howard at Yale, 2 p.m.
Wagner at Fairfield, 2 p.m.
Central at Rutgers, 8:30 p.m.